

Committees	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub Committee	02/05/2018
Community and Children's Service	11/05/2018
Subject: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Update Report	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

This report provides an update to the Safeguarding Sub Committee on the first year of the three-year SEND Strategy 2017–20 and the work with children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) in the City of London.

This report also provides an update on the outcomes of the Area SEND Inspection of the City of London 12–16 March 2018.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The duties on local areas regarding provision for children and young people with SEND are contained in the Children and Families Act 2014. The Ofsted/Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection Framework sets out the legal basis and the principles of inspection. The Minister of State for Children and Families has tasked Ofsted and the CQC with inspecting local areas on their effectiveness in fulfilling these duties.

The Local Area Inspection for children and young people with SEND

2. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (HMCI) gave notification on 5 March 2018 to the City of London local area that they were going to be inspected under section 20 of the Children Act 2004 from 12 to 16 March 2018.

3. The inspection provided an independent, external evaluation of how well the City of London local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with SEND to support their development.
 - a. Ofsted will publish the inspection findings in letter form, setting out briefly the context of the inspection, the evidence gathered, any strengths and weaknesses and areas recommended for improvement. The letter will constitute an inspection report under Regulation 3 of The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015. The outcome of the inspection should be available in early May 2018.

First year of the SEND Strategy 2017–20

4. The initial self-evaluation assessment was completed in October 2017 based on the formal external evaluation that took place in July/August 2017 and discussions with parent carers and colleagues from social care and health. In February 2018, the Education and Early Years team began the process of reviewing the first year of the three-year SEND Strategy 2017–20. The self-assessment was reviewed and updated to reflect progress during the first year. (See Appendix 1: *The City of London Corporation Local Area SEF Summary: The SEND Reforms in the City of London*)
 - a. Since the Strategy was written in February 2017, a new governance structure for SEND has been put in place, including the SEND Programme Board which is proving a significant driver for improvement – not least because we have a parent co-chairing the board with the Assistant Director, Children’s & Community Directorate.
 - b. The rapid pace of development over the past year means that the plan for year two of the SEND strategy needs to reflect the current position and the ambition of the City of London Corporation. We want to revise the strategy in coproduction with our health colleagues and, most importantly, with our parent carers, children and young people. The priorities for the next year will be incorporated into the workstream plans for 2018/19.
 - c. The priorities for the next year are outlined in the Self Evaluation and will be embedded in the workstream plans for 2018/19.

Conclusion

5. The first year of the SEND Strategy 2017–20 has delivered positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND in the City of London. The Area SEND Inspection provided an independent, external evaluation of how well the City of London local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with SEND to support their development.

Appendices

Appendix 1:

The City of London Corporation Local Area SEF Summary: The SEND Reforms in the City of London.

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