

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Review on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) (2018/19); Scope and Terms of Reference

Review Topic	Review / Project Title
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEND children are growing in numbers. They can often find difficulty in accessing services due to stretched Council budgets or lack of clarity on how parents can access services;• Families can find it a struggle to obtain a formal diagnosis for their children, which is often a prerequisite in getting extra support at school and/or at home;• Some groups of SEND children have an increased risk of exclusion from school and there can also be poor outcomes in the classroom, which can have a detrimental impact on families struggling to cope;• Early intervention, including diagnosis, is key in order to put relevant support measures in place so that children with SEND can have fulfilling lives with good educational outcomes. <p>The review will examine and review the role and the effectiveness of the current service children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) issues and autism receive. It will aim to establish;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking in particular at their interaction with the Council and schools, what are the experiences of parents with SEMH and autistic children in trying to access support for their children?• What are the waiting times for parents requesting an assessment, obtaining a diagnosis and receiving the extra support required?• What are the outcomes of children with SEMH and autism in relation to their diagnoses?• As local authorities move away from statements to Education Health and Care (EHC) plans, what are the challenges parents face in obtaining EHC plans? How many children currently have a statement or EHC plan and how many apply for it? What are the rejection rates of children trying to obtain an EHC plan and what are the reasons?

Scrutiny Membership	<p>Councillors Mahir Demir (Chair) Josh Dixon, Tammy Palmer, Dana Carlin, James Chiriyankandath, Julie Davies and Khaled Moyeed</p> <p>Co-optees/Non Voting Members: Yvonne Denny (Church representative)</p>
Terms of Reference (Purpose of the Review/ Objectives)	<p>To consider and make recommendations to the Council’s Cabinet on the effectiveness of the care pathway for SEMH and autistic children, where blockages occur and how outcomes might be improved.</p>
Links to the Corporate Plan	<p>Priority 1 - Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education</p>
Evidence Sources	<p>These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant performance data for SEMH and autistic children; • Guidance, research and policy documents; • Interviews with key officers, partners and community organisations; and • Information and data from other local authorities.
Witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vikki Monk-Meyer; Head of Integrated SEND • Gill Gibson; Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention • Haringey Involve • SEND Pact

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transition Reference Group • Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group • Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust • Schools (primary and secondary) • Other local authorities
Methodology/Approach	<p>A variety of methods will be used to gather evidence from the witnesses above, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk top research; • Evidence gathering sessions with witnesses; and • Visits
Equalities Implications	<p>The review will consider to what extent current arrangements are supporting the needs of children and young people with a special educational need.</p>
Timescale	<p>The Panel will aim to complete its evidence gathering by the end of this Municipal Year.</p>
Reporting arrangements	<p>The Director of Children’s Services will co-ordinate a response to the recommendations.</p>
Publicity	<p>The review will be publicised through the scrutiny website and scrutiny newsletter providing details of the scope and how local people and community groups may be involved. The outcomes of the review will be similarly published once complete.</p>

Constraints / Barriers / Risks	Risks: Not being able to get key evidence providers to attend on the agreed date of evidence gathering. Not being able obtain evidence from key informants e.g. local authorities
Officer Support	Lead Officer; Robert Mack, Scrutiny Policy Officer, 0208 489 2921 rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk Service Contact; Gill Gibson, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Early Help and Prevention)