

## Bristol Health & Wellbeing Board

<b>Bristol Strategy for Children and Young People (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2019-2021</b>	
Author, including organisation	Local Area SEND Strategic Partnership Group
Date of meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
Report for Decision	

### 1. Purpose of this Paper

This paper outlines the process of development and intended function of the new local area Strategy for Children and Young People (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (Appendix 1) and the local area Self-evaluation (Appendix 2). This paper seeks HWB approval of the content and publication of these documents.

### 2. Executive Summary

The local area has undertaken a process of self-evaluation which has resulted in the Bristol Local Area SEND Self-Evaluation (“SEF”). The SEF describes how effectively the local area identifies, assesses and meets the needs, and improves the outcomes of the different groups of children and young people with SEND.

The strategy has been developed through the Local Area Strategic SEND Partnership (“LASPAG”), using insight from the area’s self assessment (“SEF”), ongoing JSNA SEND Spotlight Report and consultation with stakeholders. It describes the area’s vision, values and themes for development.

The SEND Strategy and SEF will be touchstones in the development and implementation of SEND Action Plan and support HWB and stakeholders to hold LASPAG to account in accordance with the governance set out in the strategy document.

### 3. Recommendations for the HWB to Agree:

- i. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the contents of the Bristol Local Area SEND Self-Evaluation and endorse its publication.
- ii. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to adopt the Bristol Strategy for Children and Young People (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2019-2021, and endorse and promote its publication.

- iii. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to agree the governance arrangements for the oversight of outcomes for special educational needs and disabilities, as outlined in the SEND Strategy.

## **4. Main body of the Report**

### **Bristol Local Area SEND Self-Evaluation**

The Bristol Local Area SEND Self-Evaluation (“SEF”) is aligned to the Ofsted/CQC framework for local area SEND inspections; it sets out how the local area identifies, assesses and meets the needs, and improves the outcomes of the different groups of children and young people with SEND.

The document has been written collaboratively by the services delivering the area’s SEND function and sets out what the area does, how effective it is, and, good practice and developments needed in respect of the three core areas for local area assessment.

The SEF is a reference document which is intended primarily for professional use. It serves two key purposes: demonstrating that area has a clear understanding of the quality and development of its SEND function, and providing the foundation for action planning. The SEF is a key document during a local area inspection,

LASPAG is responsible for the development and review of the SEF

### **Bristol Strategy for Children and Young People (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2019-2021**

The Bristol Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities sets out our vision and values for children and young people with SEND and includes seven strategic themes. These themes express our key areas of work.

The strategy is intentionally high level and does not give detail about the specifics of SEND improvement work in the area. The purpose of the strategy is to provide an overarching framework for a varied and variable package of improvement work which must respond to changing service demands, and the outcome of a local area SEND inspection which is anticipated to take place soon.

### **The Local Area Strategic SEND Partnership Group**

LASPAG is responsible for the development of the SEND Action Plan which outlines the area’s SEND improvement work and sets out the steps which will be taken in order to deliver the themes set out in the strategy, and identify outcomes against which progress will be measured.

LASPAG will have reference to the JSNA SEND Chapter, Self Assessment and SEND Strategy, and work with children and young people and their parents and carers in developing the SEND Action Plan. The Local Area Strategic SEND Partnership Group will report to the HWB on progress against this plan and benefit from HWB’s challenge and oversight.

The local area’s SEND function is currently under considerable pressure from a failure to keep pace with a changing demographic of children and young people with SEND for whom the area is responsible. This has resulted in significant underperformance in respect of a number of key statutory duties, most notably around assessment and review. Action planning is underway

and recommendations have been prepared for Cabinet to begin to ameliorate these issues.

The development of what is now the SEND Strategy began with a draft vision and a set of priorities developed with stakeholder input, in early 2018. This was consulted on from March 2018 through to May 2018. 86% of online survey respondents either 'Agreed' (26%) or 'Strongly Agreed' (62%) with the vision (158 people). The vision statement of the SEND Strategy is based upon this work, and suggested amendments.

Young people with SEND have engaged with strategic planning processes in a number of ways. This includes an event that brought the school councils in Special Schools together to discuss priorities; a Youth Voice conference where disabled children and young people and those with SEN introduced their priorities; and representation by the Listening Partnership for children and young people with SEND on the Bristol City Youth Council.

The views and priorities of children and young people with SEND are addressed either through the SEND Action Plan (e.g. Independent living, preparing for adulthood) or other relevant work overseen through the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (in relation to mental health and bullying for example), or Learning City (training as a route to employment).

As set out above, the SEF and SEND Strategy are intended to be read as part of a set of key documents which describe the area's children and young people with SEND (JSNA SEND Spotlight Report); the area's services for children and young people with SEND (SEF); and the area's approach to improving those services (SEND Action Plan).