

People Scrutiny Commission

27th February 2020



Report of: Lucy Fleming, Head of Democratic Engagement

Title: Special Educational Needs and Disability Evidence Day: Report of the People Scrutiny Commission

Ward: All

Officer Presenting Report: Dan Berlin, Scrutiny Advisor

Recommendation:

That the People Scrutiny Commission:

- 1. consider the findings from the Evidence Day and the recommendations contained in the Report;**
- 2. adopt the recommendations in the Report;**
- 3. refer the Report and recommendations to the Cabinet meeting on the 3rd March 2020 for consideration.**

The significant issues in the report are:

The SEND Evidence Day was held at City Hall on the 3rd February 2020, centring around three evidence sessions:

1. Parents and young people
2. National policy
3. Education practitioners

The People Scrutiny Commission made 9 recommendations for ongoing policy and process development and service improvement.



1. Summary

- 1.1. The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Evidence Day was planned to focus on the Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) statutory process.
- 1.2. The SEND Evidence Day was held at City Hall on the 3rd February 2020.
- 1.3. The SEND Evidence Day centred around three evidence sessions:
 - (i) Parents and young people;
 - (ii) National policy and specialists; and
 - (iii) Education practitioners.

Refer to Appendix 2 for the schedule of the Evidence Day

- 1.4. Each session included expert witnesses representing the following groups and organisations: Parent Carers Forum; Bristol Independent SEND Community; Supportive Parents; Barnardo's; Local Government Association; SOS!SEN; Bristol Dyslexia Centre; Bristol City Academy; KnowledGGE; and Bannerman Road Community Academy – refer to Appendix 2 for the list of witnesses.
- 1.5. The People Scrutiny Commission make 9 recommendations – refer to the report, Appendix 1

2. Context

- 2.1 The work programme of the People Scrutiny Commission for 2019-20 included an Evidence Day to conduct in-depth scrutiny into the Local Authority's performance of the Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs).
- 2.2 This session was planned to compliment the agreed focus on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in 2019-20, as a standing item on each People Scrutiny Commission meeting.
- 2.3 Refer to Appendix 2 for the national and local context of EHCPs

3. Policy

Refer to Appendix 2 for National policy
Refer to [Local Offer website](#)

4. Consultation

- a) Internal
Not applicable
- b) External
Not applicable

5. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
 - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Report of the People Scrutiny Commission

Appendix 2 – SEND Evidence Day Information pack

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: none