

Schools Forum 12th October 2017

Post 16 Working Party Progress Report

Context

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced significant changes in policy for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). The new system extends the rights and protections to children and young people by introducing streamlined, integrated education, health and care plans, extending provision from birth to 25 years of age. The reforms that came into force in September 2014 have been systematically introduced at a local level through close work with the NHS, Schools and Post 16 settings.

Torbay has a high proportion of children and young people with Statements of Special Educational Needs/ Educational Health and Care Plans. This equates to 4.4% of the pupil population compared to 2.9% nationally. In addition the new duty has resulted in a rise of requests for an EHCP.

School Forum have discussed the challenges faced by Torbay in meeting the demands placed on the Higher Needs Block. These arise in the main from the increased number of requests for assessment of children and young people and the increasing complexity of needs of some children. A key area of increased demand has been for assessment and on-going support for post 16 youngsters.

To address some of the key challenges School Forum requested that a working part was established to measure the effectiveness of post 16 packages for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

This is the third report of the group.

Progress Report

The group met on the 29th June and 29th September 2017

Group Membership

- Mike Lock Headteacher Combe Pafford
- Dan Hallam Assistant Principal – South Devon College
- John Demeger South Devon College
- Debbie Main Ex Headteacher Roselands
- Dorothy Hadleigh Head of Service SEND (LA)
- Matthew Gifford SEND Reforms Project Manager (LA)
- Rachael Williams Head of Education, Learning and Skills (LA)

The work group have continued to focus on the process needed to collect and analyse provider information to ensure that the commissioned places are providing value for money.

In September 2017, the Local Authority issued a letter to all post 16 providers detailing expectations and completion dates.

The expectations are:

- All providers will return a financial monitoring report. (attached)
- All providers will return an individual pathway plan detailing the achievements to date for each learner and the anticipated outcomes for the year. (attached)

It is expected that all providers will return the initial information by the 20th October 2017. The working party has agreed to meet and review the returns, this initial information will provide intelligence for the SEN casework officers to challenge individual providers.

In addition to the working party the Local Authority has continued to facilitate the post 16 working party. This panel is looking at requests for bespoke placements and scrutinising the recommendations of the SEN case work officer.

Next Steps

- The work group to meet in November 2017 to review the returned information.
- The post 16 panel to continue to meet and receive the commissioning information.

Recommendation

- The Forum note the content of the report and request an update report in February 2018.

Rachael Williams
Head of Education, Learning and Skills