



To – Schools Forum - 9th March 2017

Post 16 Working Party Progress Report

Context

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced significant changes in policy for children with special educational 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/Education, Health and Care Plans. This equates to 4.4% of the pupil population compared to 2.9% nationally.

In December 2016, School Forum 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 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 young people.

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

This report sets out the steps taken by the group.

Progress Report

The group met on the 13th January and 24th February 2017.

Group Membership:

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

First Meeting

The group established the principles of how we would conduct our task. The members agreed that pupil outcomes needed to remain as the first priority, whilst seeking assurance in relation to the current investment being made on post 16 packages.

Members reflected that outcomes for post 16 pupils need to be articulated clearly and form part of an expansive vision for SEND that is agreed across providers and partners. The discussion resulted in the formulation of a vision statement that has been included in the SEND Strategy 2016 -2020.

Our vision is to have effective services in place for young people with additional needs up to age 25. It is our expectation that the education and training offered by post 16 providers will take into account the assessment of pupils' needs and strategically plan to meet the aspiration of pupils during this phase and beyond. This will be reflected in the wide variety of high quality options for post 16 education and training, giving young people the choices and opportunity to work towards their aspiration, ensuring where appropriate that there are pathways into employment and independent living.

To ensure that young people are recognised as full citizens with their own contributions to make to their local communities and society, we will embed and strengthen the process of supporting their transition to adulthood. To do this, we will recognise the strengths of previous experiences, building on effective strategies for continuity and progression, ensuring that transition is a good experience for every young person, leading to strong outcomes.

The Strategy has been reviewed by the Councils Policy Development and Decision Group and is now subject to wider consultation.

Second Meeting

The second meeting focused on how to convert the agreed principles into an effective commissioning framework. The local authority proposed some quality and value for money measures that could be applied to all provisions.

Suggested measures include:-

- Total cost of provision (elements 1, 2 & 3)
- Average cost per student hour
- % of students who complete courses
- % of students who drop out
- % of students progressing in line with original plan
- % of students moving to employment/ training or apprenticeships
- % of annual review paperwork returns
- Ofsted grade

Next Steps

The complexities of measuring value for money across a wide range of providers, catering for varying pupil needs is understood by group. The group has committed to meet every three weeks and take action in between.

The next meeting is focused on the data collection and procedures that are currently used by members, with the aim of creating a consistent process that can be aligned to the original principles.

Rachael Williams
Head of Education, Learning and Skills
26th February 2017