

Overview and Scrutiny February 2017 – Questions

Section 3.3 'enable children to achieve their potential.....'

1. What measures are in place to ensure that CYP's with SEND are assessed in a timely and effective manner and then go for schools to have sufficient resources to meet the specific needs in order for the CYP to achieve 'Best possible educational and other outcomes' (C&FA 2014, Pt.3, S. 19 pt.d)? The following is included as to date no response from Cllr Mellen from last month's O&S

1. Does the city hold as a priority the need to be compliant with the Children and Families Act 2014, part 3, section 19 – specifically part (d) of section 19?

Local authority functions: general principles

S.19 Local authority functions: supporting and involving children and young people in exercising a function under this Part in the case of a child or young person, a local authority in England must have regard to the following matters in particular—

- (a) the views, wishes and feelings of the child and his or her parent, or the young person;
- (b) the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, participating as fully as possible in decisions relating to the exercise of the function concerned;
- (c) the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions;
- (d) the need to support the child and his or her parent, or the young person, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help him or her achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.

2. Will the funding arrangements for SEND support be published on the Local Offer (i.e. be transparent)? We hear via parents that SENCO's and head teachers are unsure of how to secure additional funding and the HLF arrangements are considered not to be consistent. This was raised at the Peer Review and some providers were reported 'not to be aligned with the SEF'.

“There are some indications that the wider Nottingham City community- some parents/carers, and some providers, do not share the same perspective about
- SEN Support/graduated response
- Parental engagement/participation at the individual level, within the Pathway”.

Peer Review feedback presentation (2016): “HLN – less clarity for families and parents/carers”

NCC SEN Review (2015) – “The costs of SEND should be made transparent to all to enable greater understanding of budgets.”

“Schools need to be transparent about the level of SEN funding they receive to ensure appropriate support is in place before requesting further funding. There should be more rigorous monitoring of this public money.”

A head teacher has told me personally that there is no additional money to support SEND CYP's in the school budget and this is detrimental to all CYP's on roll in the class. In this particular school CYP with SEND was 30%.

As a PPS volunteer of over a decade, I have asked school SENCO's the number of statements along with the number of students with SEND (where possible) when I've been in meetings and heard them tell parents that 'you won't get a statement', and in some schools it has been as high as 30%.

3. Ref 3.3 'enable children to achieve their potential.....'

Autumn 2016	Summer 2016	Spring 2016	
PUPILS			
446	429	424	Pupils on roll
FREE SCHOOL MEALS			
51	57	93	QA - Massive reduction in numbers of children claiming free school meals – what can the LA do to encourage parents to claim for this even if they don't use it. Is there is a communications plan around free school meals like the county have done http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pressreleases/show/parents-urged-not-to-miss-out-on-extra-funding-for-their-childs-education
SEND REGISTER			
3	-	2	No of EHCP's
92	-	72	QB - No of children with SEND Why are there so few children that actually have a EHCP - what used to be a statement compared to the numbers that we know have SEND in our school.

Recent statistics produced for a Peer Review (November 2016)

The estimated 2000 to 3500 is inconsistent with 16% of 46,000 (=7,360) and also the figures stated in a Service Specification of 21.3% presumably from the JSNA from 2010. Does the LA know how many CYP with SEND that they have a duty to support?

Last bullet point - '*create more special school places*'

How will CYP's without SEND access these extra spaces without an EHCP in light of the current/historic status of low statementing numbers?

Section 3.4 -

1st Bullet point - Could we have figures for 2015 and 2016? Since the figures from 2011/12 are prior to the plan i.e. 'how well is the plan working?'

2nd Bullet point - As above, please could we have figures for 2015 and 2016. Also, what is the significance of comparing to 2007? Was this a year when Nottingham was ranked lower than it is now?

3rd and 4th Bullet point - Is the investment adequate to cater for the predicated 10% population rise by 2020?

Section 3.5

'Guarantee a job, training or further education place for every 18 - 24 year old' -

1. What is the commitment to providing a 'careers' service to YP's with SEND? Many families report that they have never spoken to anyone about transitions and although this should now be covered by an EHCP, most students with SEND do not have one.

2. Does this 'guarantee' include our community?

3. If so, who is the 'go to' person to ensure this happens?

4. Is this clearly explained on the Local Offer?

5. What extra resources will colleges be able to access to ensure that they can cater for students with SEND?

6. There has been a recent increase in the activity of the Nottingham Jobs Hub – which is welcome. Anything to get people back into work or to get them started is great. However there seems to be a real increase in jobs that are being advertised as zero hour contracts – but then say in the small print that there should be sufficient hours for people who are successful. Is this considered to be really acceptable? Especially as many of our new claimants in the city are claiming universal credit.

Universal credit is paid in arrears and if you have worked in a month you generally have to wait another six weeks from not working to actually then get paid again.

7 - What is the policy on zero hours contracts being advertised through somewhere as high profile as the Nottingham Jobs Hub? Is it acceptable that we should allow employers to advertise jobs that are zero contract hours? Recent research stated that some – e.g. students - prefer to have the flexibility of zero hours, but is the Nottingham Job Hub really for students? Current examples include Hovis and Motorpoint Arena.