

<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>30 JANUARY 2020</b>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

## **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To review progress in improving support to children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities.

## **2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) consider whether it is satisfied that the Council is fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to supporting children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities; and
- b) identify whether any further scrutiny of these issues is required.

## **3 Background information**

- 3.1 Many children will experience some kind of difficulty in learning at some time during their school life. Most will receive the help they need from their nursery, school or college. Some children may need extra or more specialised help. A child has Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) if they have learning difficulties or a disability that needs special educational provision. In most cases the special provision that is needed can be made within a mainstream school, but for some children and young people it may be agreed that a special school would be most appropriate for their needs.
- 3.2 Nottingham City Council's SEN Service is available for children and young people aged 0-19 years with special educational needs and their families who live in the City and/or attend a City school; children with special educational needs who are looked after by Nottingham City Council but live elsewhere; schools; colleges; early providers and other educational establishments.
- 3.3 The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced changes to support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, extending provision from birth to 25 years of age, and replacing statements and Learning Disability Assessments with Education Health and Care Plans. The Department for Education produces statutory guidance called the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice that must be followed by local authorities, schools, health partners and other organisations when working with children and young people.

- 3.4 In June 2018 the Committee reviewed work that was taking place to implement requirements of the Act and areas of priority focus going forward. A further briefing on progress in implementing the Act is attached.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Area Review will be forthcoming. An outline of work to prepare for this Review is attached and it is timely for the Committee to consider whether it wishes to review and seek assurance in relation to any particular aspects of work to support children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in advance of that anticipated review. Any issues identified could be included on the Committee's work programme.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Update on Progress in Implementing the Children and Families Act 2014
- 4.2 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Area Review – Inspection Preparation

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 Children and Families Act 2014
- 6.2 Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice
- 6.3 Report to, and minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19 June 2018

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All

#### **8 Contact information**

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