

Inclusion Strategy 2007 – 2010

Summary

1. This report seeks Member approval for the Inclusion Strategy 2007-2010.

Background

2. The Inclusion Strategy is one of the seven plans that focus on vulnerable children and young people within the Planning Bookcase of the Children and Young People's Plan.
3. The key objectives set out in the previous strategy document have been achieved. These include the reorganisation of special school provision, delegation of funding for SEN provision in mainstream schools, revision of funding formulas, implementation of extensive training programmes, development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation procedures for SEN and development of a self review framework for inclusion as part of the quality assurance programme.
4. The new strategy has been developed through the Inclusion Strategy Group, which acts as a consultative and advisory body assisting the Local Authority in the development and implementation of policy. This group includes representatives from a comprehensive range of agencies and interest groups in this area of development. The group's remit covers a number of significant issues within the Local Authority's inclusion agenda:
 - Reviewing and producing an agreed Inclusion Strategy.
 - Overseeing the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings.
 - Providing advice and input on the Local Authority's continuing professional development programme to support increased mainstream inclusion.
 - Development of the Local Authority's Special Educational Needs provision in terms of the inter relationship of mainstream, enhanced and special educational settings.

- Oversight of the Local Authority's monitoring and quality assurance capability with particular reference to the increased delegation of centrally held SEN resources.
 - The effective involvement of pupils and their parents in the ongoing development of the Local Authority's inclusion strategy.
5. The new strategy document has been developed in the light of both national and Local Authority priorities. It seeks to take account of the national picture and indicates how the City of York Council is responding through its own planning systems. The key national initiatives, which have informed development, are:
- Removing Barriers to Achievement: the Government's Strategy for SEN (2004)
 - Every Child Matters, Change for Children (2004)
 - National Strategies (2004-2007)
 - Education and Skills Committee Report on Special Educational Needs (2006)
 - The National Service Framework for Children and Young People (2004)
 - OFSTED report of the effectiveness of SEN provision (2006)
6. At a local level the Inclusion Strategy has been developed in the light of priorities in the Local Area Agreement and the Children and Young People's Plan. Of particular overarching importance is the priority in the Corporate Strategy (2006-2009) to improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the City.

Consultation

7. The development of the Inclusion Strategy has been informed by consultation with a number of the key multi-agency planning groups including the Children and Young People's Management Group, the Joint Consultative Group and the Inclusion Strategy Group. Parents and young people have been consulted through the Pupil and Parent's Sub-Group. One outcome of this is that the first section of the document has been written with a view to easy accessibility.

Options

8. The Executive Member may wish to comment on the contents of this strategy.

Analysis

9. Not applicable.

Corporate Priorities

10. The strategy is aligned with the following priorities within the Corporate Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan:
 - Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.
 - Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects.
 - Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York.
 - Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services.

Implications

11. **Financial:** There are no direct financial implications arising from the publication of the strategy.

Human Resources (HR): There are no direct HR implications arising from the strategy.

Equalities: This Inclusion Strategy should be viewed as an integral part of the corporate Equalities Strategy and will deliver strategies that comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Legal: There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder: There are no implications for crime and disorder.

Information Technology (IT): There are no implications for IT.

Property: There are no implications for property.

Other: There are no other implications.

Risk Management

12. There are no known risks arising directly from the strategy document.

Recommendations

13. The Executive Member is recommended to consider the proposals and to approve the Strategy document.

Reason: Requirement to set up Local Authority response to national guidance and legislation.

Contact Details

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Patrick Scott
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Report Approved

Date 28 February 2007

Specialist Implications Officer(s) N/A

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

1 City of York Council Inclusion Strategy 2007 – 2010