

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 12 November 2015

Subject: Preparing for the Future, Supporting Special Educational Needs and Disabled Young People

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 At its meeting on the 18th of June 2015, the Scrutiny Board considered potential sources of work for the 2015/16 municipal year. Following discussion with the Executive Board Member (Children and Families) and representatives from Childrens Services the Board expressed a desire to undertake an inquiry which would consider what it is like to grow up in Leeds if you are a child with special educational needs and/or a disability. Terms of reference were agreed by the Scrutiny Board on the 10th of September 2015. The Board resolved to initially scrutinise the needs of young people from year 9 onwards.

1.2 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:

- The voice of the Child and their families and the extent to which Children, Young People and their families feel informed and involved in decisions affecting their lives particularly in preparing for adulthood.
- Learning and achievement from year 9 onwards. Education settings and the educational pathways available to generate opportunities for Children and Young people to obtain skills for life and/or qualifications.
- Promoting good school attendance.
- Increasing the number of SEND young people in education, employment or training
- Preparation for adulthood and transition support.

2.0 Submission of evidence – November 2015 Meeting

2.1 In accordance with the terms of reference and during the 1st Session of the inquiry the Scrutiny Board has requested information on the following areas at this meeting:

- Updated Leeds SEND Strategy 2014-17 action plan
- Example of an Education Health and Care Plan
- Results of the 'Make Your Mark' Ballot
- The SEND Ofsted framework consultation
- Training of educational staff and school governors on SEN and Disability
- SEND attainment data at Key Stage 4 and beyond and the strategy for narrowing the attainment gap.
- The use of data to identify success in the various educational settings and the sharing of good practice.
- Suitable educational pathways for key stage 4 learners to provide skills for life and independence and qualifications for employment.
- Promoting good attendance of SEND children and young people in educational settings.

2.2 In addition to information attached evidence will also be submitted verbally to the Board.

2.3 In accordance with the inquiry terms of reference the following is scheduled to be subject to further scrutiny in December 2015.

Looking forward to adult life

- Suitable educational pathways for post 16 learners to provide skills for life and independence and qualifications for employment.
- The Transitions Team and Specialist Transitions Advisors
- Transition planning, advice, support and challenges
- Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance
- Leaving school, positive destinations and preventing NEET
- Support to access work experience and meaningful employment

Visits to gather further evidence will also be undertaken by the Scrutiny Board to support this inquiry.

3.0 Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) is recommended to:

- a) Note and consider the documented information provided and presented verbally to the Board on the 12th November 2015.
- b) Make recommendations as deemed appropriate.
- c) Note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information to extend the inquiry should the Children's Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence during this session.

4.0 Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.