

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 10 March 2016

Subject: Sibs – Supporting Siblings of SEND 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 Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) with information to promote understanding and discussion about the challenges faced by the siblings of young people with special educational needs or disabilities.

2 Background information

In June 2015 the Scrutiny Board agreed to undertake an inquiry into 'Preparing for the Future, Supporting Special Educational Needs and Disabled Young People'. During this inquiry the board identified that the siblings of young people with SEND can face barriers and challenges which can negatively impact on their lives. Whilst acknowledging that this specific area does not fall within the terms of reference for the inquiry, the Board considered that the receipt of information to promote further understanding and debate would be beneficial.

3 Sibs

3.1 Sibs an organisation which exists to support people who grow up with or have grown up with a disabled brother or sister. Monica McCaffrey is founder and the CEO of Sibs and will be attending the Scrutiny Board meeting on the 10th of March.

3.2 The aim of Sibs is to enhance the lives of siblings by providing them with information and support, and by influencing service provision throughout the UK. It believes that siblings have a right:

- To be valued for who they are and what they do
- To be seen as individuals with specific needs
- To access reliable sources of advice and information, and support services
- To influence the services and policies that affect them
- To reach their full potential

3.3 Sibs' key areas of work currently are:

- To influence the identification and support of siblings in schools
- To get information about sibling support into the Local Offer of local authorities
- To provide direct support to young siblings through YoungSibs
- To educate parents and professionals on supporting siblings
- To increase self-identification by adult siblings
- To develop a UK wide network of adult sibling support groups
- To produce resources for adult siblings around managing care and support

Attached is information provided by Sibs about supporting siblings in schools. This usefully summarises many of the challenges faces by siblings and the 'top tips' to address some of the issues faced. Further information can be found on the Sibs website.¹

4 Recommendations

4.1 Scrutiny Board is requested to:

- a) note the contents of this report.

5 Background documents²

5.1 None

¹ <https://www.sibs.org.uk/>

² 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.