

Schools Forum – 21 March 2024

Update relating to the Accelerated Progress Plan and Strategy for Special Provision (including information relating to the Special School work, EADPR pathway and SEDIS model)

Executive Summary

This paper sets out updates related to the three main workstreams in the Accelerated Progress Plan; Enhanced, Assess, Plan, Do Review Pathway (EAPDR), Special School developments and SEDIS Model. In all workstreams, progress is inline with projected and agreed timescales. EAPDR was launched in January 2024. The final Special School developments that will proceed will be agreed on 12 March 2024. Final SEDIS providers are currently being interviewed and will be finalised in late April 2024.

1. Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)

- 1.1 Progress on the APP continues in line with the projected timescales and outputs. After a successful 18-month review, the Local Authority is hosting Department of Education, NHS England and partners for the 24month review of the APP on 8 May 2024. Notwithstanding the outcome of this review, a 3rd APP is currently being drafted with a view to reinforce and further drive current SEND improvements.

2.Strategy for Special Provision (SSP)

- 2.1 The SSP comprises of two main elements, the Special Schools Project and the development of Staffordshire Enhanced District Inclusion Support (SEDIS).

Special Schools Project

- 2.2 In Spring of 2023, the Local Authority approached maintained and academy special schools to explore options for the development of special school capacity in line with the detailed gap analysis for SEND needs. Eighteen proposals were received. Of these, 11 did not meet viability/feasibility or gap analysis criteria. Seven projects have progressed to stage 2, with one already commissioned and in development. Officers are meeting on 12 March 2024 to finalise the remaining 6 projects. Schools will be informed shortly after this date regarding the outcome of these projects.

SEDIS

- 2.3 In response to expressions of interest to develop SEDIS teams, the Local Authority received 21 expressions of interest (EOI) from groups of schools. These EOIs were considered in early January 2024. Of these, 9 met criteria for further consideration at stage 2 of the selection process. Interviews of these potential providers is scheduled for 7th and 14th March 2024. Successful SEDIS teams will then move to the implementation and capital project support phase, if required, in April and May 2024. SEDIS teams will commence service delivery as a rolling start in September 2024.

3. Enhanced Assess Plan Do Review (EAPDR)

3.1 Over late November and December 2023, countywide training was provided to schools, educational settings and professionals working in the field of education, was launched on 8 January 2024. As of 4 March 2024, 90 requests for EAPDR have been considered. Of these, 67 have fulfilled criteria to be agreed and Educational Psychologists allocated to provide enhanced support at the 'plan and review stage' of the process. Where EAPDR has not been agreed, officers have provided schools and SEND and Inclusion Hubs detailed feedback regarding their applications with a view to improving these applications.

3.2 Over March and April 2024, LA officers, Health clinicians and a number of SENCOs will be visiting districts to hold solutions sessions with settings to support their work prior to requesting EAPDR. District SEND and Inclusion Hubs will be provided a detailed analysis of patterns and trends of EAPDR applications in the summer term of 2024.

Recommendation

1. That the Schools Forum notes the content of this report.

Report of Head of SEND

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