

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES
AND SAFEGUARDING)**

**SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL BOOTLE
ON TUESDAY 4TH APRIL, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Murphy (in the Chair)

Councillors Bradshaw, Brenda O'Brien, Pitt,
Spencer, Thomas, Mrs Sandra Cain, Ms Libby Kitt
and Mrs C. Palmer.

Overview
& Scrutiny



50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennett, Carragher, Hands, Keith, Webster and Substitute Members Councillors Brennan and Dodd.

Apologies for absence were also received from Co-opted Members, Stuart Harrison and Father Des Seddon.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were received.

**52. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY
INSPECTION AND DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACTION**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Schools and Families in relation to the recent joint inspection undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Service.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) at its meeting held on 31 January 2017 received a verbal update in relation to the inspection. The Committee requested that a Special Meeting of the Committee be arranged in order that the Committee could scrutinise the draft written statement of action addressing the five key areas of concern arising from the findings of the joint inspection.

The purpose of the report was to share with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the methodology and objectives in the written statement of action in order that members had an opportunity to scrutinise the draft written statement of action before it was finalised and submitted to Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 4TH APRIL, 2017

The Head of Schools and Families presented the written statement of action and emphasised that the statement of action had been developed to address the following five areas of concern that had been raised by Ofsted:

- Action 1 – the poor progress made from starting points by pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an Education Health and Care Plans at key stages 2 and 4.
- Action 2 – the poor operational oversight of the Designated Clinical Officer across health services in supporting children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.
- Action 3 – the lack of awareness and understanding of health professionals in terms of their responsibilities and contribution to Education Health and Care Plans.
- Action 4 – the weakness of co-production with parents, and more generally in communications with parents.
- Action 5 – the weakness of joint commissioning in ensuring that there are adequate services to meet local demand.

The Head of Schools and families reported that in producing the statement there had been engagement with representatives from the Health and Wellbeing Board, SEND Strategic Group and the Local Authority Improvement Board. It was also reported that there had also been discussion at the Sefton Schools Summit and as part of the Local Authorities “annual conversation” with Ofsted.

Members raised the following concerns, observations and questions:

- That the Statement of Action (draft version 11) was comprehensive. However it was suggested that all 5 Actions required specific targets and outcomes in relation to addressing the areas of concern.
Response: The Statement of Action will be amended to include further detailed information in relation to specific targets for each of the Actions.
- Concerns regarding funding being the key driver by schools for a Child with Special Educational Needs and Disability.
Response: Schools are required to pay the first £6000 for each Child that requires SEND support.
- That the Data referred to in the Statement of Actions (A1.1), included data from all Schools and not only Special Schools in the Borough. Response: All Schools had been visited in order that an accurate recording of the whole SEND population across the Borough was reflected in the Statement of Action.
- Is there reluctance from some parents accepting that their Child could have Special Educational Needs?
Response: Gaps in parents acknowledging that their Child could have Special Educational Needs had been highlighted and in those cases can lead to delays in a Child receiving a statement.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING) - TUESDAY 4TH APRIL, 2017

- How do you ensure that Children are not stifled by prejudice and that all Teachers are following a mutual view point?
Response: Teachers contribute to the Education Health and Care Plan of a student, it's a collaborative piece of work which should eliminate prejudice and ensure that a common view is agreed.
- Concerns regarding the timescales allocated to actions and that an action within the Statement of Actions with a target deadline date had lapsed, the general feeling was that realistic targets should be assigned to actions as this could cause frustration and a lack of trust from Parents.
Response: All deadlines will be reviewed to ensure that realistic targets feature in the revised Statement of Action before being submitted to OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission.
- Concerns regarding the specific pathway for those Children with Autism, it was felt that the Autism Pathway should be specifically referred to within the Statement of Action.
Response: That the Statement of Action would be amended to highlight the Autistic Pathway specifically.
- Early Identification and Intervention was absolutely necessary in ensuring that each individual achieves to their full potential.

The Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Head of Schools and Families undertook to amend the draft Statement of Action (version 11) to include key points raised, as above.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the findings from the Joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection in relation to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Service, be noted; and
- (2) the draft Statement of Action (version 11) be noted and officers be requested to include the key points highlighted above and specific outcomes in relation to addressing the areas of concern relating to the 5 Actions referred to in the Statement of Action.