Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The SEND Improvement Plan was signed off by the Department of Education (DfE) on 17th October 2019 and is now published.

The third SEND Improvement Board met on 22 October 2019. Progress was noted but there is still further work to do. The Board has a number of sub groups and it was agreed to scrutinise activity around their work and the next board is, therefore, scheduled to look at Co-production and Communication.

On 22nd January 2020 the DfE will visit Sefton to look at progress, meet Board members and discuss any issues.

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of services for children in Sefton

We received notification on 9th September 2019 that a JTAI would take place with a deep dive theme on children’s mental health. Evidence was collated and sent in advance and the site visit took place week commencing 23rd September 2019. The inspectorates were: Ofsted (Children’s Social Care and Education), CQC (Health), HMICFRS (Police) and HMI Probation (Youth Offending). The outcome letter is scheduled to be published on 8th November 2019.

Strengthening Families

Sefton is one of 15 local authorities that were successful in bidding for funding from the DfE on the Strengthening Families Programme. We will adopt a Family Value model used in other local authorities so that issues such as addiction, domestic violence and mental health can be tackled as they arise. The new project will look at person centred care and support at every step as strong relationships are fostered between workers and families. We will work closely with the DfE to look at how the programme will develop.

Education Excellence.

The first Education Excellence Elected Members Reference Group was held on 28th August 2019. The group is to act as the main forum for strategic discussion about delivering education excellence. This is to ensure that all Sefton people have access to good education, training and learning to achieve their potential. Terms of Reference have been agreed and the next meeting is due to take place in December 2019.