

Somerset Parent Carer Forum

Weekly update



Somerset's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy for Children and Young People aged 0-25 (2016-19)

This week we thought it would be useful to reflect on the Somerset SEND strategy. The strategy is due to be refreshed next year and parent carers will be involved in its development. We thought it would be useful for people to know more about the current one. We appreciate that not everyone will have time to the 33 page document.

The strategy outlines some of the key challenges and things that drive the strategy including changes to legislation in 2014, financial pressures, high levels of SEMH and low levels of Autism compared to national figures and lower rates of compliance with statutory deadlines than expected to mention just a few.

The strategy is an area strategy which covers Education, Health and Social Care and is based on partnership working. Somerset County Council undertook two customer satisfaction surveys in the Autumn of 2015, which highlighted two key areas of improvement which were communication, and community inclusion which have also been fed into this strategy.

The strategy is also aligned with other strategies that are due be refreshed this year including the Children and Young Peoples plan and Somerset's Early Help Strategy.

OUTCOME 1 – OUR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE OF OUR SEND SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT, FEEL EMPOWERED AND CONFIDENT TO ENGAGE AND TO

OUTCOME 2 – TIMELY AND ACCURATE ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION OF SEND ACROSS EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES.

OUTCOME 3 – INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO GOOD QUALITY LOCAL EDUCATION.

OUTCOME 4 – SMOOTH AND EFFECTIVE TRANSITIONS HAPPEN AT KEY POINTS FOR THE CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON

OUTCOME 5 – CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING DELIVERS EFFECTIVE, FAIR AND TRANSPARENT SYSTEMS AND SERVICES



Somerset's Vision for Children and Young People

We want every child and young person to have the greatest possible opportunity to be the best they can be, to be happy, and have choice and control over their life.

The vision is underpinned by -

- A commitment to inclusion and equal opportunities for all children.
- All children and young people in Somerset have the right to an inclusive education where they feel they belong.
- Development of a well-planned continuum of provision from birth to age 25 that meets the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families.
- children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability and their parents carers fully participate in co-producing the services that will best ensure good outcomes and a positive transition to adulthood.