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| LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN | WARDS: ALL |
| REPORT TITLE Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families' response on the investigation into the effectiveness of children SEND provision in Camden | |
| REPORT OF Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families | |
| FOR SUBMISSION TO Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee | DATE 24 February 2025 |
| <p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>In October 2024, the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee was presented with the final report of the SEND Provision Scrutiny Panel, which investigated the effectiveness of provision for meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND in Camden. The Scrutiny Panel was made up of elected members and co-opted members from the Committee. The Committee requested that the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families prepare a response to the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations from the investigation and to report back to the Committee.</p> <p>The findings of this investigation revealed that there were areas where provision was not meeting families' needs and expectations. They found that many of the issues faced locally are national and driven by insufficient resource and increases in demand and need. The report recognised that Camden has worked creatively within its budget but that there is still work to be done to improve local provision. The report made recommendations to improve practice on a local level as well as recommendations for changes that are needed national. This report contains the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families' response to these recommendations.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Panel's investigation was gratefully received. Officers have been drawing on the evidence in the report to shape our local area partnership SEND strategy implementation plan and our priorities. The majority of the recommendations are agreed upon and included in our work plans.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Vikram Hansrani, Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion 5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG vikram.hansrani@camden.gov.uk</p> | |

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to note the report.

Signed:



Cllr Marcus Boyland, Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families
Date: 14 February 2025

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. In October 2024, a report which investigated the effectiveness of provision for meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND was presented to the CSF Scrutiny Committee. This investigation has supported officers in their self evaluation of the local system and planning of work to best support children and young people with SEND locally.
- 1.2. This report provides our response to the recommendations made by the panel investigation and how we plan to meet the needs raised through the panel's investigation. The panel's assessment has strengthened our own work on self evaluation of the local SEND system and the recommendations are complimentary to our local implementation plans.

2. Key questions for the committee

- 2.1 Within the constraints of the national system we are working within, are members satisfied with our planned work to meet needs and aspirations?
- 2.3 Is there more that Camden can do to influence improvements to national policy?

3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

The Director of Finance has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no comment to make at this time.

4. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

The Borough Solicitor has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no comment to make at this time.

5. Environmental Implications

This proposal has no environmental implications.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Recommendations and Cabinet Members' Responses.

REPORT ENDS