

Report to: **Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board**

Date: **6 March 2012**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **East Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder**

Purpose of report: **To provide the background to the SEND Pathfinder**

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## **1. Background**

1.1 In March 2011, the Department of Education published a Green Paper entitled, 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability.' The paper outlined new ways of working to meet the needs of children and young people, aged 0 – 25, with special educational needs or with a disability. These new methods include:

- a single education, health and care plan that is personalised, person-centred, family-led and outcome-focused
- personal budgets for parent carers of disabled children and those with SEN, so they can choose which services can best contribute to good outcomes in relation to their children's needs as identified on the single plan
- new ways of making clear to families what help is on offer, who is responsible, and how they can get support
- greater parents involvement in the development of new processes as well as piloting them

1.2 In September 2011, a South East 7 (SE7) regional bid to trial the Green Paper recommendations was successful. The SE7 region made the only consortium area bid and is one of 20 areas in England piloting the SEND Pathfinder. SE7 is the largest area and contains approximately a quarter of all children and young people involved in the Pathfinders. Together, the seven local authorities and four PCT clusters cover a population of 5.3million people, including 1.3million children and young people. They are responsible for 25,000 children with statements and net budgets worth £3.4 billion per annum.

## **2. Relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board**

2.1 The Green Paper recognises that one of the ways local authorities and health services will play a pivotal role in delivering change for children, young people and families is through Health and Wellbeing Boards. More specifically, Pathfinders are encouraged to, "work with the health sector and with the new Health and Wellbeing Boards to consider how the needs of children and young people with SEN or who are disabled can best be taken into account through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, joint health and wellbeing strategies, guidelines and standards from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), and health service outcomes frameworks."

2.2 This directly relates to a key deliverable of the Board, namely to commission a Joint Specific Needs Analysis (JSNA) that accurately and appropriately documents the needs of the local population, including children and young people with SEND.

The reforms aim to ensure children and their families are at the heart of the new assessment and planning processes and that they are fully involved at each stage.

### **3. East Sussex**

3.1 By April 2012, 100 children and young people will be identified to pilot the East Sussex Pathfinder. The aim is for these children and young people to have completed a streamlined assessment process and to have a personalised, person-centred, outcome-focused single plan by September 2012.

3.2 This Pathfinder aims to transform practice for children, families and practitioners. It is in line with the wider personalisation agenda and is a key driver to changing practices across services for children and young people with SEND.

3.3 As the lead SE7 area, East Sussex has the power to influence practice and future legislation as a result of Pathfinder participation.

### **4. Evaluation**

4.1 The Department of Education has commissioned a national Pathfinder evaluation that will, "assess the effectiveness of the models developed", "undertake a full cost-benefit analysis", "establish whether rolling out the policy would be cost effective, and how it would affect service providers, commissioners, communities and the likely costs to Government."

4.2 East Sussex is a national evaluation case study site and participating families will take part in pre- and post- Pathfinder evaluation activities.

### **5. Future steps**

5.1 Once the cohort of 100 children and young people has been established, key partners, including GPs and other health professionals working with the child may be invited to participate in the new assessment and planning process.

5.2 The interest and support of the Board is welcomed. Biannual reports to the Board will be made unless otherwise advised.

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