

**Education and Children's Services
Scrutiny Committee
1 December 2016**

Covering Report: Pupils aged 16 to 25 with Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans

Summary and Objectives

1. The objective of this scrutiny is for the committee to understand, and make any recommendations in relation to, the outcomes being achieved for Suffolk pupils aged 16 to 25 with Education Health and Care (EHC, previously SEND) Plans.

Scrutiny Focus

2. Key focus areas for this scrutiny include the following:
 - i) Brief overview description of how the Council and partner organisations operate in supporting Pupils aged 16 to 25 with Education and Health Care (EHC) Plans
 - ii) An explanation of how the 16-25 EHC Funding works (sources, flows, amounts, etc).
 - iii) Current issues / challenges and opportunities, and Plans / milestones for addressing these.
 - iv) Transition planning / support; into adulthood and independence
 - v) Comparator local authorities (eg. Gloucestershire?)
 - vi) Numbers of people age 16-25 with an EHC Plan
 - vii) EHC Plan timescales
 - viii) Engaging and collaborating with Health agencies
 - ix) How education and learning providers are responding to the needs of those with EHC Plans

How this relates to County Council priorities

3. This scrutiny is linked to the County Council's corporate priorities as indicated below:

The County Council's Corporate Priorities	Link to this scrutiny
Raising educational attainment and skill levels	✓
Supporting the LEPs to increase economic growth	
Maintaining roads and developing Suffolk's infrastructure	
Supporting those most vulnerable in our communities	✓
Empowering local communities	✓

4. Having considered the evidence, the Committee may wish to:
- i) make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, and/or the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services;
 - ii) agree topics which could benefit from more detailed scrutiny at a future meeting, seek to influence partner organisations, or request further information.

Contact Details	Scrutiny Officer	Local Councillor
Name	Paul Banjo	All Councillors
Telephone	01473 265187	
E-mail	paul.banjo@suffolk.gov.uk	

Background

5. At the Committee [meeting on 3 December 2015](#), the Committee resolved to give further consideration in the Forward Work Programme to pupils who were in the age range 16 to 25 with Education and Health Care (EHC) Plans (*previously Special Educational Needs and Disability Plans*), noting also the concerns highlighted to the committee by a member of the public regarding Further Education colleges. The Committee had heard representation from a Public Speaker (unable to attend in person) who set out her concern regarding the difficulties faced by intelligent young people within the autism spectrum accessing appropriately supported post-16 education. She set out the difficulties her own son had faced before successfully gaining an Education, Health and Care Plan and a place at the Centre Academy. She expressed her anger and upset about the way her son had been treated the previous year but hoped that the Committee becoming aware of the situation would mean that future students in the same position would be properly supported. The Chairman noted that it was a possible item for future scrutiny.
6. At a workshop in November 2015 a committee member had raised concerns regarding the educational impacts of the new post-16 Discretionary Transport changes.
7. At the 8 Sep 2015 meeting members requested a future update on the progress of the IYFAP (In Year Fair Access Panel), as the Committee had an ongoing desire to ensure that pupils with SEN and/or behavioural problems were not being excluded from schools.
8. The committee had previously looked at Education Other Than At mainstream School' ('EOTAS') alternative provision arrangements at its [meeting on 15 Dec 2014](#). The recommendations and outcomes from that meeting are shown in the update reported to the Committee [meeting on 15 June 2015](#), in [Agenda Item 8 Appendix 4](#) of that meeting. Those recommendations covered:
 - ... to liaise with partner agencies and be satisfied that there are adequate mechanisms in place in Suffolk to ensure safeguarding of young people who are in Home Elective Education (EHE).
 - to investigate further the position regarding reintegration into mainstream schools of pupils who have had EOTAS provision, in particular in relation to allegations of schools turning away pupils with SEN or behaviour issues
 - to establish a basic checklist of information, and process improvements, so that when a child moves on from one establishment to another there is basic information passed on, ensuring safeguarding and that no child can 'disappear off the radar'

- to provide members with regular access to information on outcomes of the new alternative provision Strategic Commissioning Board and Steering Group.

Main Body of Evidence (attached)

- (i) **Evidence Set 1** - (38 pg) – Report and Appendices prepared by CYP officers, ‘Pupils and Students with Education, Health and Care Plans [EHCPs]’

Additional References (online)

- (i) National Statistics - Special educational needs (SEN). Statistics on pupils with SEN, including information on educational attainment, destinations, absence, exclusions, and characteristics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen>

- (ii) National Statistics - Statistics and analysis on statements of special educational needs (SEN) and education, health and care (EHC) plans in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2016>

"There were 74,210 statutory EHC plans and 182,105 statements maintained by local authorities at January 2016. This gives a combined total of 256,315. The combined total of statements and EHC plans has increased each year since 2010."

"There were 24,655 new EHC plans and 3,270 new statements made during 2015 giving a combined total of 27,925. The combined number of statements and EHC plans made during 2015 is greater than 2014 but lower than 2013."

"Between January 2015 and January 2016 there were 42,005 transfers from statements to EHC plans. When accounting for null returns, this is equal to 18.2% of statements in place in January 2015. The period for local authorities to transfer statements to EHC plans began in September 2014 and is due to end by April 2018."

