
Date: 13 May 2019

	For Action	For Information	Meeting
To: Headteachers of all schools, Governors and SENCOs	X		
Copies to:			

Dear Colleague,

Consultation on the Draft West Sussex Education and Skills Strategy to support the inclusion of all children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – 2019-2024

The County Council has been developing a new Education and Skills Strategy to support the inclusion of all children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This strategy builds on our SEND strategy for 2016-2019 and the outcomes of our 2018 Ofsted/ CQC SEND Local Area Inspection.

Our draft strategy has been co-produced during the spring term 2019, with a wide representation of stakeholders, indeed more than 150 people have participated in the development workshops and events. The stakeholders have included parent carers, young people as well as education providers and other professionals from across social care, health and education. Together, we have identified the key work priority areas and ensured these relate to other local authority strategies.

The Draft Strategy is a starting point that will be refined and further developed in response to your views. We are therefore now inviting comments on our proposals. The draft SEND and Inclusion strategy is available with an accompanying survey at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/SEND2019.

Or, for a paper copy email Kathryn.Kellagher@westsussex.gov.uk
The closing date for this consultation is **Friday 14th June 2019**.

The results of the first consultation will be reviewed and the draft strategy will be amended as appropriate. A second consultation will then take place between 8th July and 23rd July 2019.

Feedback will be provided on the "we asked, you said we did" section of the "have your say" hub, using the same line as above. The final document will be presented to the Children's & Young People's Select Committee on 29th August

2018 and will be considered by the Committee on 11th September. The Draft Strategy will be amended in light of the feedback and the Final Strategy will be approved by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

It is therefore our ambition that the new SEND and Inclusion Strategy together with a detailed implementation plan incorporating each of the eleven actions will be ready for implementation in October 2019.

We will then publish accessible progress reports against the implementation plan together with performance indicators, which will measure our success. These will be updated termly and published on The Local Offer.

This will enable us to hold each other to account for our joint work and SEND and inclusion Strategy progress, including the management of dependencies across other local authority strategies, e.g. Pathways to Adulthood. A SEND and Inclusion Strategy Board, with parent carer and education setting representation, will formally oversee the delivery of the strategy and report to WSCC cabinet board members. Regular focus groups will also be held with children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Johns
Head of Inclusion and SEND