

**24 June 2015**

**SEND STRATEGY 2015-18**

*Report of the Director of Childrens Services*

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**1. Purpose**

To provide the Forum with a summary of the key themes and priority workstreams in the new SEND Strategy 2015-18 to be published in September 2015.

**2. Summary**

The paper gives a summary of the strategy, the governance structure and relationship to the Forum and High Needs subgroup.

**3. Recommendations**

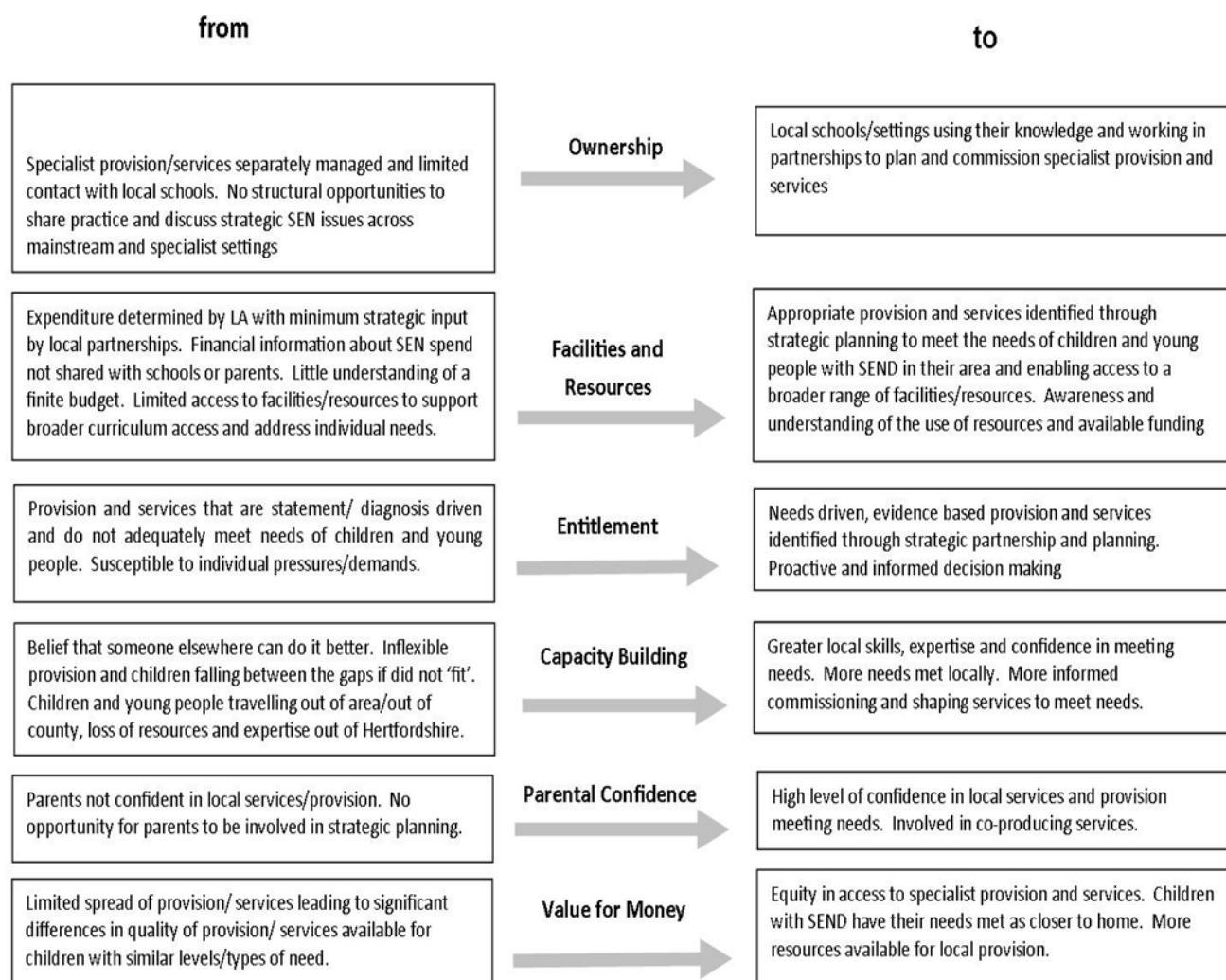
The Forum is asked to note and comment on the issues covered in this paper.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 The strategy will set out the vision, outcomes to be achieved, success measures and a work programme focused on the key priorities for the next 2-3 years. The Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL) governance and engagement framework is the mechanism for partners to work together to deliver the strategy (see Appendix 1). In a challenging national and local context it is obviously important that schools, settings, services, parents and the Local Authority work together to use available resources effectively to commission the best possible services to meet needs.
- 4.2 A new SEND strategy will be published in September 2015. The strategy coincides with a period of major national change and there are likely to be implications from future national policies that we will need to take account of. However the Children and Families Act, 2014, has already established a clear

set of SEND reforms and our strategy is set within the overall vision of these reforms.

- 4.3 Over the past five years our strategy has been to move in the direction from left to right on the continuum below. The new strategy will continue in this direction.



## 5. Key Themes to Strengthen in Hertfordshire

- 5.1 We have identified three cross cutting key themes that we want to build on and strengthen in the strategy:

- Ensuring Quality and Effectiveness
- Making Best Use of Resources and Building Capacity
- Engaging Stakeholders and Working in Partnership

- 5.2 The Forum and the High Needs sub group will play a particularly important role in relation to Theme 2 and the use of the High Needs Block. Our strategic

objectives need to be underpinned by a robust and sustainable financial strategy in order to maximise the value of high needs resources. We will need to make informed choices about how we use the available funding equitably and effectively to support early intervention and inclusion in our schools, settings and services.

## **6. Priority Workstreams**

### **6.1 Behaviour**

- Develop and publish a refreshed Behaviour Strategy
- Complete the evaluation of the secondary partnership commissioning pilots and agree actions for implementation
- Continue roll out of primary behaviour commissioning models
- Further develop the flexible continuum of provision in all Areas, including effective working between ESCs and special schools, building on the model of North Herts Alternative Solutions
- Co-ordinate the roll out of Hertfordshire Steps

### **6.2 Autism**

- Consider the findings of the Autism Review of educational services and provision
- Develop an action plan to implement agreed recommendations

### **6.3 Units/Bases/Support Services**

- Review the focus and function of specialist bases, units, outreach and support services
- Implement agreed recommendations and outcomes

### **6.4 Special Schools**

- Review specific areas of relative underuse and areas for development
- Identify further ways in which special schools can share expertise with mainstream schools and enhance capacity
- Further develop strategic work across mainstream and special schools through DSPL

### **6.5 Quality of SEND Offer**

- Develop a core quality offer expected from all schools/settings, examples of best practice and an evaluation framework

## 6.6 High Needs Budget

- Develop a sustainable financial strategy underpinning the SEND strategic objectives
- Review ENF process

## 6.7 DSPL Area Groups

- Review their operation and the support for the groups to maximise their effectiveness

## 6.8 0-25 – Pre and Post 16 Alignment

- Increase understanding and alignment of strategy, services and funding across the age range

# 7. **Governance Structure**

7.1 The governance structure is attached at Appendix 1.

7.2 A new SEND Executive Board has been established to drive the strategy and make decisions. The Forum will relate to the Board via the High Needs sub group.

# 8. **Conclusion**

The Forum is asked to note and comment on the issues in this report.

## Appendix 1

