

# Agenda Item 6

EXECUTIVE  
5 DECEMBER 2017

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## ITEM 6: BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF SPECIALIST PROVISION: A COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

### Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Comments

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee strongly supports the three recommendations set out on pages 69-70 of the Executive's agenda.

The Committee would like to add the following comments: -

- Future Proofing – The Committee has welcomed the level of positive involvement of special schools and their head teachers in the development of the proposals. The Committee reflected on how to secure the proposed provision in the future when the particular circumstances of special schools and head teachers might change. The Committee was assured that if a special school were in the future to indicate that it could not meet the needs of an individual pupil in its area, this would not only be a matter for the local authority, but would also be a matter for other special schools. This would in effect mean the school would be influenced by the 'peer pressure' of other special schools.
- Meeting Statutory Obligations – The Committee is aware of the role of the local authority in meeting its statutory obligations, specifically in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The Committee has highlighted there is a risk that some schools might be seeking to take systematic advantage of the opportunities on offer as a result of the proposals. The Committee acknowledges that any gains for each school would be ultimately for the benefit of pupils.
- Communication with Parents – The Committee has stressed the importance of communicating with parents during the implementation phase of the proposals. The Committee was assured that the implementation of the proposals would be gradual.

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