

**Open Report on behalf of the Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>7 September 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Update on the implementation of the local authority's Monitoring and Accountability Framework for state funded schools</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider an update on the implementation of the local authority's monitoring and accountability framework for state funded schools.

**Actions Required:**

- (1) To consider the summary information and the attached Monitoring and Accountability Framework documents.
- (2) To note that significant legislative change in this area of the Local Authorities duties is forthcoming in the Autumn term 2012
- (3) To make any recommendations/comments in relation to this updated information.

**1. Background**

Members of the Committee will recall that they noted the contents of a previous report in regards to this matter. The report dated 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2010 outlined the then proposals for the implementation of the monitoring and accountability framework.

Since that time I am pleased to report that within the context of significant national changes in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and in the context of pending legislative change in all areas related to SEND all proposed actions have been implemented and are now embedded as business as usual practice.

The Monitoring and Accountability Framework is now embedded and as such it and the related controls in place across the Local Authority position us well for any future change.

The Framework consists of a number of tools that can be used by staff from Additional and complex Needs, PfAS, School Leaders and SENCOs.

The attached documents are:-

- a) A copy of the Narrowing the Gap – Monitoring and Accountability Framework. This is used by PfAS and the Additional and Complex Needs service as a measure of ascertaining the schools' performance in relation to the adherence to statutory guidance and all measures relating to SEND.
- b) A Copy of the document entitled Provision Mapping Guidance – This forms part of the monitoring and Accountability Framework and is used to assist school staff in ensuring they are enabled to implement SEND duties and responsibilities effectively.
- c) A copy of a SEND 'Health Check' agreed plan of action – Part of the Monitoring and Accountability Framework. This illustrates aspects of highlighting good practice and identifying further areas of work to sustain that.
- d) A copy of a commissioned report that was initiated because of concerns in regards to school based provision and Value for Money.

(NOTE - the documents referred to in (c) and (d) above have not been circulated to the press and public in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds that they are considered to contain exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended.)

In addition the Local Authority have implemented robust procedures and protocols in relation to commissioning Out of Authority placements and have introduced procedures for monitoring and regulating SEND funding in relation to requests from schools for additional SEND funding for individual children, whilst at the same time absorbing significant increases in workload related to changes imposed nationally by the Ministry of Justice Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (a first and second tier Court of Law)

The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Executive, as part of its consideration of this item.

## **2. Conclusion**

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to note the contents and or whether it wishes to make any additional comments or recommendations.

## **3. Consultation**

N/A

### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

N/A

#### **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Narrowing the Gap
Appendix B	Provision Mapping Guidance
Appendix C	SEND Health Check – Action Plan
Appendix D	Commissioned Report

(NOTE - Appendices C and D have not been circulated to the press and public in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds that they are considered to contain exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended.)

#### **5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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