

## **SEND Strategy Consultation (Schools and Parents) – autumn term 2017**

### **1. Summary of Parents' Feedback**

Majority strongly agreed with vision and priorities

However, the comments largely expressed parental dissatisfaction.

While we know that parents are more likely to comment if they are dissatisfied, this feedback gives us valuable insight into the topics likely to be raised with inspectors by parents, and therefore the opportunity to reflect on how we would respond i.e. what we are doing to mitigate these issues.

#### **Parental Dissatisfaction**

Several parents expressed cynicism with regard to Lambeth's ability to deliver the vision, ("been here before and nothing changed"). Several cited their experience of a lack of inclusive ethos in schools; having to "fight" for the right support; and little joining up, especially between health and education –

- "Strategy is great, just hope it can be put into practice so no one has to experience the nightmare that we've been through. A nightmare that has seen our son miss years of education, been restrained, locked in seclusion rooms and at times faced social isolation."
- One commented that her child has been 'managed' out of 3 schools and still not getting the right support
- Another that her child has repeated exclusions and detentions but no help to manage his behaviour.
- Experience of Lambeth schools is that the approach to inclusion and SEND varies hugely from school to school. Too many reject children with SEND saying they can't meet their needs.
- "Do teachers need more training to take the 'fear' out of education children with SEND?"

Concern that transition support needs to start much earlier. Families of young people with SEND feel they are left with big gaps after children's services end.

Not enough support for the families of complex / disabled children e.g. insufficient Short Breaks. "other boroughs offer much more" .

Parents saying they need more information, in particular, information about accessibility for SEND children and young people to access local community play groups etc. is limited.

Need to remember, this is not just about education providers – has to include community organisations.

## **2. Summary of Schools' feedback**

### **2.a School responses aligned with parents regarding:**

- **Wanting more and clearer information about what's available**

We need a directory of services and support available – only aware of what we use currently, have to research to find what else is out there. Local Offer isn't clear or comprehensive. Parents need this too.

- **Improving consistent inclusive approach across Lambeth schools**

There is an extremely unfair distribution of children with SEND across Lambeth schools  
Need to achieve greater consistency of practice across all settings.

Must get better at sharing good practices and improving collaboration of Health and SC colleagues and placing CYP at the heart of discussion.

Lambeth Teaching schools should be leading the way in supporting us to narrow the gaps

More schools to develop and use nurture groups

### **2.b Other feedback from schools**

Headteachers and SENCOs want:

#### **A Greater range of support services and outreach:**

- Greater access and awareness of outreach support – what should PRUs offer?  
ASD support been cut
- Need far more support for SEMH - outreach and training for teachers
- More effective Early help / Early intervention – where is this and what does it look like?
- Better communication between SALT and schools
- Introduce Portage style support like they have in Wandsworth / Bromley

#### **Better identification of SEND in the Early Years**

- Too many children arrive in reception without being 'known'

#### **Smarter EHCPs:**

EHCPs need to articulate a holistic support package – have to move away from the 'hours' culture.

EHCP outcomes need to be clear and measurable but generally aren't

## **Funding**

Restructure the funding system – there has to be better way than present system which leads us to apply for EHCPs to get additional funding for yp.

### **For young people:**

Mentoring services for vulnerable young people.

Greater offer of vocational pathways, especially from KS4.