

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OSC

REPORT TO CABINET

17 November 2022

Send Capacity and Place Planning Strategy

The report was presented by Sue Aviston, Head of School Organisation and Resources, to the Committee at their meeting on 10 November 2022.

The Committee welcomed the strategy and the improvement in schools over the years. Members held a discussion covering a range of different areas including why there appeared to be less specialist provision in the west of the County, how well mainstream schools were meeting the needs of SEND pupils and how Northumberland compares regionally and nationally.

Officers assured members that there was less demand for specialist provision in the west and that the current needs were currently being met in Hexham; however, officers would run a workshop to identify any further need in the area. With regards to mainstream schools' ability to meet current needs, members were pleased to hear Officers were confident the needs of children and young people were being met.

Members sought to gain an understanding of what had driven a 78% increase in children and young people with an EHCP from 2013 to 2022. The Committee were minded to commission a report; however, after further discussion the members were in favour of establishing a task and finish group to examine the factors leading to the need for EHCPs, a review of the curriculum, and how needs are met outside the county. The scoping report for the task and finish group will be circulated for agreement at the next FACS meeting in December.

The Committee **agreed** to advise the Cabinet they supported the recommendations as outlined in the report unanimously.

WAYNE DALEY
CHAIRMAN