

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Special Meeting of the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning – 8 March 2005

Report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

SEN Strategy – ‘Giving Every Child the Opportunity to Succeed’

Purpose

1. To receive a presentation on the SEN Strategy document ‘Giving Every Child the Opportunity to Succeed’.
2. To enable the Committee to advise the Cabinet Member and the Director as the Committee sees fit.

Background

3. The Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning has previously consulted on these issues on three occasions: October 2002, September 2003, and June 2004. The SEN Strategy has been drawn up taking into account the responses of both professionals and public.
4. The SEN Strategy sets out proposals for reorganisation of all specialist provision for pupils with special educational needs in Dudley.
5. The proposals will ensure a comprehensive and sustainable continuum of special educational needs provision across Dudley.
6. The proposals will enable the provision of high quality education with local provision for children with special educational needs. This provision will be made in suitably adapted and new buildings with an emphasis on the retention of highly skilled staff and opportunities for their ongoing professional development.

Finance

7. The implementation of the Strategy will be supported financially through the redistribution of the revenue SEN budget, both delegated and centrally managed. Capital developments will be dependent upon the reuse of capital receipts.

Law

8. Proposals for the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of Community, Foundation, Voluntary and Special Schools will require publication at the

appropriate time under Sections 28, 29 or 31 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and subsequently considered in accordance with the procedure outlined in schedule 6, which enables the Council to approve the same where no objections are received or are withdrawn. Where objections are received and are not withdrawn the proposals are considered by the School Organisation Committee and if the Committee cannot reach a decision they will be referred to the adjudicator for determination.

Equal Opportunities

9. The Strategy meets the requirements of the Disability and Discrimination Act 1995, Equal Opportunities Act 2002 and the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000.

Recommendation

10. I recommend that the Select Committee consider the Strategy and make any comments for the further consideration of the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Director.



John Freeman
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Contact Officer:
Sharon Menghini, Assistant Director for Access and Inclusion
01384 814226