

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal EMCS04a T19 EIA Educating High Needs - Users
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Department Childrens Services
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Description of Service / Policy

The Education and Inclusion Service includes a range of services supporting school age children with 'High Needs', through support to schools and parents, as well as children and young people directly. These include:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support
- Inclusion support for children in early years and childcare settings
- Virtual School for Children Looked After aimed at improving educational attainment
- Registering and quality assurance of elective home education
- Support to schools aimed at reducing fixed-term and permanent exclusions
- Support for 17-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Support for schools/parents to maintain good attendance
- Educational psychology support

Geographical impact* All Hampshire

Description of proposed change

To reduce the cost of Education & Inclusion Services through limiting the range of non-statutory High Needs services provided to:

- Young people aged 16+ who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET);
- Schools, regarding children looked after and pupil exclusions; and
- Pupils educated at home.

Alongside reducing statutory High Needs services back to a minimum level around:

- the quality assurance of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs); and
- the delivery of early years administrative functions.

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal, however, the County Council carried out a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2017 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing council tax, using reserves and making changes to the way in which services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in October 2017.

When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Statutory considerations

Age Medium

Impact	Reduction or cessation of High Needs services by the County Council to schools and children, young people and families may reduce the support being provided to school age children looked after, young people not in education, employment or training and secondary aged pupils at risk of permanent exclusions.
Mitigation	Direct 17-18 year old cohort to engage under the new apprenticeship levy.
Disability Impact	High Ceasing quality assurance of EHCPs may increase the risk that the needs of children and young people with SEND are not met, whilst reducing the size of the Virtual School may impact on the educational outcomes of children in care (who are overrepresented on the Special Educational Needs register).
Mitigation	Introduction of new EHCP Digital Solution to assist in the production of plans alongside the training to staff in its implementation contributing to a better quality output.
Sexual Orientation Impact	Low Reduction in the High Needs Service's capacity to support schools may impact on their ability to support pupils.
Race	Neutral
Religion and Belief	Neutral
Gender Reassignment Impact	Low Reduction in the High Needs Service's capacity to support schools may impact on their ability to support pupils.
Gender	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity Impact	Low Reduced support for young people not in education, employment or training will include a reduction in the support being provided for teenage mothers.
Other policy considerations	
Poverty Impact	High Ceasing provision of the Youth Investment Programme and reducing High Needs Services may impact upon the support provided to children and young people from impoverished backgrounds.
Mitigation	Direct 17-18 year old cohort to engage under the new apprenticeship levy. Continue to encourage schools to take a greater leadership role for Children Looked After and for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, alongside adopting more inclusive practices for those at risk of exclusion.
Rurality	Neutral

Additional Information