

## **BEST VALUE REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES - STAGE 3 REPORT**

**Report By: Manager of Special Educational Needs**

### **Wards Affected**

Countywide

### **Purpose**

1. To consider the Stage 3 Report of the Best Value Review of Special Educational Needs Provision and Support Services.

### **Financial Implications**

2. The financial implications vary with each option for future provision. However, the preferred option is thought to be cost neutral.

### **Report**

3. The Best Value Review of Educational Services for Schools began in March 2003. The original scope of the Review covered individual support for statemented pupils and the contribution of educational psychology. This remit was considered too narrow and representations, which were accepted, were made to Education Scrutiny Committee. The Review was extended to encompass the physical and sensory, medical and behavioural and learning support services. Stage 3 has now been completed. A copy of the Stage 3 Best Value Report (45 pages in length) is enclosed separately for Members of the Committee and is available to the public on request.
4. The conclusions of the Review process are that the Special Educational Needs Support Services perform well overall with particular strengths being:
  - Staff flexibility and adaptability
  - Contributions to mediation and SENDIST tribunals
  - Multi agency links and collaboration
  - Quality of working relationships with schools
  - Monitoring of performance and planning in HPS, MBSS, PASS and HLSS

However, there are some key areas of weakness that need to be addressed:

- Statutory assessments and processes need to be reviewed
- Further coordination of the services is required to build capacity for fully implementing national initiatives e.g. early intervention, value for money and monitoring pupil outcomes
- Robust service planning needs to be implemented across all areas

- The availability and accessibility of information need to be improved.
5. The Best Value Review Team recommend that the way forward most likely to deliver improvement to the services provided would be to maintain current provision but to implement improvements (9.1). This would retain continuity of provision and enable known issues to be rectified.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Members consider the outcomes and findings of the review and recommendations contained in the Options Appraisal Stage 3 Report (Sections 9 and 10 commencing pages 41 of the report) with a view to making recommendations to the Strategic Monitoring Committee.**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Best Value Review of Special Educational Needs Provision and Support Services, Stage 3 Report.