

# **BEST VALUE REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES STAGE 4 IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**Report By: Head Of Children's And Students' Services**

## **Wards Affected**

Countywide

## **Purpose**

1. To consider the Stage 4 Improvement Plan arising from the Best Value Review of the Special Educational Needs Provision and Support Services.

## **Financial Implications**

2. None. The plan seeks to secure improvement within existing budget parameters.

## **Report**

3. Special Educational Needs and Support Services provide a valuable service to the schools and pupils of Herefordshire and are well regarded by stakeholders. It was the opinion of the Best Value Review Team, that the service be retained whilst implementing those improvements identified during the review.
4. The attached report (Appendix 1), Stage 4 Improvement Plan for the Special Educational Needs Provision and Support Services, outlines the measures to be taken in order to achieve the identified improvements. In brief, they are as follows:
  - Re-structuring of the Special Services Section.
  - Improvements to the percentage of Statutory Assessments, with and without exceptions, completed within 18 weeks.
  - Reduction in the number of Statutory Assessments.
  - Review the capacity for support services to attend key Annual Reviews.
  - Improvements to collection of data, monitoring progress against targets and identification of potential areas for improvement.
  - Review of the Statutory Assessment processes (National Common Assessment Framework).
  - Extension of Banded Funding in High Schools.
  - Improvements to the accessibility of SEN information to parents.
  - Consideration of the minimum standards for advisory staff and consideration of appropriate training and professional development strategy.

## **Recommendation**

**THAT the draft Improvement Plan be considered and any comments referred to the Cabinet Member (Children's Services) for him to consider prior to finalising the Plan.**

### **Background Papers**

- **SEN & Support Services BVR Stage 3 report.**