

# **NORTH TYNESIDE COMMISSIONING PANEL**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Background**

The SEND reforms within the Children and Families Act 2014 supports children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEN) from birth to 25.

The approach to the Panel is aligned to the Council's Target Operating Model (TOM) and will ensure that children and young people with SEND achieve the best possible Outcomes.

### **Purpose**

The Commissioning Panel supports the Local Authority (LA) in making decisions with respect to requests for Statutory Assessment and the placement and provision for children and young people with SEND.

The Panel also has a training/information raising function, as SENDCO's, Headteachers, Health/Care professionals attend the Panel as observers, raising awareness of service roles within SEND and the EHCP process.

The Panel also has a monitoring function, monitoring the quality of EHCP advice across Education, Health and Care.

### **Principles**

- Understanding of Statutory duties with respect to SEND, in line with the SEND Code of Practise including: understanding of local education, social care and health service, to local arrangements and activity.
- Children and Families legislation
- Inclusion Strategy

### **Consideration should be given to the following:**

- Is all evidence timely with clear authorship
- How has the provider responded to the requirements of the National Curriculum, especially providing effective learning opportunities for all?
- How does the school currently use its delegated SEN funding?
- What has been the level and nature of particular targeted support received by the pupil?
- Has the school actively sought the views of the pupil as appropriate to their age and understanding?
- Has the school actively sought the views of the parents/carers?
- Are there at least three IEPs/Provision Maps that, in line with the SEN Code of Practice, describe clear, appropriate targets and support arrangements in addition to a copy of the SEN Support Plan and evidence of implementation and review?

- What progress has been made during the past twelve months against the targets in the IEP/Provision Map/SEN Support Plan?
- Where appropriate, have whole-school arrangements (such as staff awareness/training, physical adaptations, consistent management strategies etc.) been put in place?
- Has the school explored the use of information technology?
- What steps have been taken by the school to involve the parents/carers of the child through the IEP/SEN Support Plan?
- How have Local Authority services have been involved and to what effect?
- Have other relevant external agencies been involved e.g. health, social services?
- Has advice received from the external agencies been reflected in the arrangements made for the pupil in school, e.g. in the IEP/Provision Map/SEN Support Plan?
- Is there evidence of unmet need despite the school using the totality of its delegated resources and co-ordinating the involvement of parents/carers and appropriate external agencies?
- Are the child's needs complex?
- Are the child's needs severe relative to other children and young people of the same age within the Local Authority?
- Is there evidence that the child's needs are long-term i.e. likely to present difficulties for the child for the duration of his/her school life?
- Are there expensive resource implications for the school in meeting the child's needs?
- Does the evidence point to under attainment rather than SEN?
- Are there alternative and more appropriate ways to support the child's access to learning?

### **Panel Membership**

Senior Manager, SEND (Chair)  
 Educational Psychological Manager (or representative)  
 Headteacher representatives, Mainstream and Special Schools  
 Service Manager, Whole Life Disability  
 Designated Clinical Officer

### **Meetings and Administration**

Meetings are held every two weeks during school term time  
 Papers are circulated in advance of the meeting  
 Action points will be taken at the meeting and circulated to members  
 A schedule of meetings will be published for the 12 month period