**Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms Update**

Nearly 20 months into the new system may I take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the progress of the SEND reforms in Tameside. The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a new system, with some distinct key aspects which includes **0-25** age range, working towards clearly defined **outcomes, joint working** between education , health and social care, the **engagement and participation** of young people, children and their parents with greater transparency and information about what is available through the **Local offer; personalisation** and the introduction of **personal budgets;** School action and School Action Plus has beenreplaced by a single category **‘SEN support’.**

Work is in progress on updating the document on Identifying and Assessment of Need which will replace the old **Matching Provision to Need** guidance and will give support to schools in understanding the steps that need to be in place before applying for an assessment for an Education Health and Care Plan. The Code of Practice stipulates that a cycle of **Assess, Plan, Do and Review** has to form part of the school practice in measuring and demonstrating  progress for children and young people with SEND.

Tameside has 288 EHCPs as of end of February. It still has 424 statements to transfer to plans before April 2018. Since 01/09/2014 there have been 199 new requests for assessment although 79 of these were from several schools who applied more than once. Of these 82 have become EHCPs.

208 statements have transferred to EHCPs. All post 16 Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) where the young person is remaining in education in September 2016 have to be transferred by August 2016.

The introduction of the 20 week timeline to complete the EHCP assessments is proving challenging as 57% (39 of 69) have been completed in time when there is no exception for completion. (Late advice from Health professionals, school holidays, parent or child absent from meeting, social services delay are a few of the reasons for an exception allowed under the Code of Practice.) This figure is 23% (3 of 13) when exceptions have been made.

I will continue to update you over the 4 year schedule for implementing the reforms, however, if you have any further questions left unanswered , please do not hesitate to contact SEN team.