

**TO: EXECUTIVE
21 NOVEMBER 2017**

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

Director of Children Young People & Learning

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Executive is requested to approve the draft strategy which has been written in partnership with schools, colleges, early years settings, parents/carers, young people and other stakeholders (attached as Appendix 1) to raise the achievement of children and young people with Special Education Needs (SEN) and Disabilities.
- 1.2 The Council has a number of statutory duties in relation to Special Education Needs and Disabilities and works to statutory guidance in a detailed Code of Practice, published following the Children and Families Act 2014. "Thrive in Learning" sets out the three year strategic direction and priorities for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) for children and young people aged 0-25 years. It sits as a section of the Learning Improvement Strategy.
- 1.3 The LA has the lead for the partnership in Bracknell Forest (BF) that coproduced the plan, but recognises that its success will lie in the effectiveness of the partnership between all stakeholders

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This plan has been coproduced with everyone who has an interest in Special Educational Needs and Disability in Bracknell Forest. The first stage began in March 2017 and after considerable discussion has resulted in this final draft.
- 2.2 There was overwhelming support for the four principles we agreed for our strategy and the five priorities which we decided upon.

The agreed priorities are:

1. We will work to ensure that Emotional Wellbeing and Child and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are available to all eligible children and young people
2. We will support Early Years settings, schools and others to improve the inclusion and educational outcomes for children and young people with SEN and Disabilities.
3. We will improve post 16 destinations for young people with SEND and reduce the NEET population.
4. We will ensure that SEN and disability systems and decision-making (including specialist place planning) are robust and funding is used effectively to deliver positive outcomes.
5. We will develop a joint "Outcomes Based Commissioning" approach to commissioning across the children and young people's partnership.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Special Educational Needs and Improvement Strategy be approved.**

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 There is a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities to have a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy.
- 4.2 There is a necessity for the Local Authority to lead the partnership in developing services and provision for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None. This is a statutory requirement.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 During the coproduction process, the key issues that resulted included the need for specialist education to be more local, more training for staff and better working between services. There was also strong support for continuing to develop inclusive practices in mainstream schools, encouraging the closer involvement of parents and increasing the number of SEN staff in services.
- 6.2 Social care and health services to disabled children and young people are valued and should continue to develop support and guidance processes for families.
- 6.3 The strategy will be delivered within available funding through re-prioritisation, improved early help and prevention and more effective, value for money commissioning etc

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal requirements are addressed within the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 7.2 The financial implications arising from the strategy will need to be considered each year as part of the normal budget setting process with the anticipated impact from any changes in service delivery needing to be financed from within available resources.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.3 An equalities impact assessment indicated no negative issues but many opportunities for positive engagement. All action plans supporting this document will have an EIA.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.4 The substantial risks associated with this strategy relate to:
- i. Ensuring timely action to address the issues included in the strategy and
 - ii. Maintaining the partnership momentum.
 - iii. Working within the financial constraints.

These have been mitigated by careful planning and ensuring maximum joint accountability during the coproduction stages.

Other Officers

- 7.5 None appropriate.

8 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 8.1 A full list of those who help coproduce the strategy is included in acknowledgements section of the strategy. The main groups were:
- Senior leaders (including governors) from schools and colleges:
 - Senior leaders from the East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Berkshire Health Foundation Trust (BHFT).
 - Representation from Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust (FHT)
 - Connected care
 - The Bracknell Parent Forum:
 - The Voluntary sector (INVOLVE)
 - LA services (both Children and Adults services)
 - Public Health Programme Manager
 - The Youth Council.

Method of Consultation

- 8.2 Coproduction included seminars, workshops, presentations, individual comments (written and verbal) and a letter inviting comments including a questionnaire.

Representations Received

- 8.3 Various over the coproduction period. All these have been included in the final draft. There is now overwhelming support for the four principles and the five priorities which we decided upon for the strategy.

Background Papers

[Children and Families Act 2014](#)

[Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#)

Contact for further information

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