

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE
26 JANUARY 2016**

**SENSORY NEEDS STRATEGY 2015-2020
Director of: Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the 2015-2020 Sensory Needs Strategy for Bracknell Forest.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive:

- 2.1 **Approve the 2015-2020 Sensory Needs Strategy subject to suggested amendments**
- 2.2 **Agree the development of an Action Plan by the Sensory Needs Partnership Board driven by the Sensory Needs Strategy.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The current Sensory Needs Strategy for Bracknell Forest runs until the end of 2014. There is currently no local document providing strategic direction for the development of sensory needs support in Bracknell Forest. From the end of 2014 to date, the Sensory Needs Partnership Board has been responsible updating and implementing the Sensory Needs Action Plan.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not changing the existing strategy.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 A commissioning strategy is a plan which sets out how support and services for individuals will be developed at a local level. In order to decide what outcomes the Council and its partners need to be achieved and how the strategy will be implemented the following has been taken into account:
- relevant legislation and national guidance
 - an analysis of the needs of the local population and how these are likely to change in the future
 - an overview of the strengths and limitations of current support and services
 - resources currently available
- 5.2 People in Bracknell Forest have been asked for their views during a 12 week consultation period to find out what the local issues are. This information, together with local and national policy has informed this strategy to ensure that people with sensory needs in Bracknell Forest are enabled to have choice and control to manage

their wellbeing and live as independently as possible. Alongside this consultation, a review of the existing Sensory Needs service provision was carried out by the department.

- 5.3 Since the publication of the 2009 – 2014 Sensory Needs Strategy there have been significant changes in local and national policy and landscape. The 2015 – 2020 Sensory Needs Strategy takes into account these current drivers.
- 5.4 During the lifetime of the 2009-2014 Sensory Needs Strategy, many outcomes and improvements have been achieved including:

Personalisation

Everyone receiving support from Adult Social Care now has a personal budget.

Sensory Needs Team

Following an extensive review and consultation around the existing sensory needs support in Bracknell Forest, a Sensory Needs Team was established in 2012. The council took on responsibility for the Initial Assessment and Sensory Impairment Registers as of 1st December 2012. This has allowed the council to further understand the needs of individuals with sensory impairments within the Borough.

Sensory Needs Clinic

In response to the review and consultation results, a Bracknell Forest Sensory Needs clinic was established in 2013. Assistive Technology and equipment designed specifically to support people with sensory needs is set up within a home environment within Bridgewell. People with sensory needs are able to visit the 'flat' to try various support aids and to talk to the Sensory Needs Team about what they need to live independently and to achieve their goals.

Specialist Support

As part of the remodelling of the sensory needs service, Adult Social Care practitioners are able to access a list of specialist providers reviewed and selected by the department. These specialist providers are experts in providing support, interpretation and assessment services to people with a wide variety of sensory support needs.

- 5.5 The 2015-20 strategy has been developed by using available data, including the 2014/15 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Bracknell Forest, 2011 Census data and other sources from the Office of National Statistics. Relevant legislation and national guidance has also informed the development of this strategy. This is supported by feedback arising from the Sensory Needs Strategy Consultation Conference (6th March 2015) and the other consultation methods during the 12 week consultation period detailed later in this report. Development of the strategy is in accordance with the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework 2015-16 (ASCOF).
- 5.6 With regard to local data collection, it is difficult to follow the sensory needs pathway through the system. This is because there are no specific codings for sensory needs which means specific information cannot be extracted. Further development work is required by Business Intelligence following the reporting upgrade as to whether a support plan on LAS can be linked to the assessment.

The LAS health check and developments may offer OT/sensory needs an option to create a workspace to support a system to improve operational practice as regards reporting.

- 5.7 The priorities identified by the consultation responses are:
- Better Communication and Access
 - Access to Information and Advice
 - Better Awareness of Sensory Needs
 - Sensory Needs Clinic and Assistive Technology
 - Support throughout the community to maintain independence
 - Holistic and joined up services
 - Better support for carers
 - Prevention of the development of Sensory Needs

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the report and the documents referred to therein. However, it should be noted that in respect of the Care Act 2014 referred to in the SN Strategy, the introduction of a cap on care costs has been postponed by central government to 2020.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Council allocates its financial resources through the budget process in the context of its medium term financial plan. Currently the medium term financial plan forecasts that the Council will need to make significant savings over the next few years. Over this period the Council will have to develop increased efficiency in service delivery whilst still responding to demographic changes, new legislation and the need to modernise services. This will require the reallocation of some of the Council's limited resources to key priorities.

In order to deliver these service changes the Council publishes a range of strategies and policies relating to many of its key services. A strategy or policy does not represent a financial commitment but, rather, sets the strategic direction of travel, subject to the level of resources that become available. These strategies also form the basis of the annual service plan which ensures that the development of the Council's services is consistent with its medium term objectives within the resource envelope that is agreed. The development of these strategies is, therefore, an important part of the Council's arrangements for helping it allocate its limited resources to maximum effect.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 EIA screening attached. Summary:
- No groups are adversely impacted
 - People with sensory needs are the most significantly positively impacted group
 - Other positively impacted groups are:
 - Older people
 - Carers
 - Racial Equality
 - Gender Equality

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 An action plan will be developed for the delivery of commissioning intentions which supports services for people with sensory needs. Delivery of this plan is considered as a risk which can be mitigated by robust performance monitoring undertaken by the Sensory Needs Partnership Board. The Sensory Needs Partnership Board will report into the Health and Wellbeing Board and report to the Overview and Scrutiny on an exceptions basis.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The Sensory Needs Partnership Board was involved in developing the strategy and will develop the related action plan.
- 7.2 A 12 week public consultation which ran from 6th March to 29th May 2015.
- 7.3 People who responded to the consultation include: people with sensory needs, carers, practitioners working within the field of sensory needs support and voluntary groups supporting people with sensory needs and their carers.

Method of Consultation

- 7.4 A Sensory Needs Consultation conference held in March has informed the development of the Strategy. Other consultation methods used include telephone and face-to-face interviews, postal questionnaires and through an online version of the consultation. The conference and consultation exercise was made accessible through the use of British Sign Language Interpreters, Speech-To-Text-Reporters, Braille translation, Large Print and one-to-one support.

Representations Received

- 7.5 Over 300 comments were received from people who took part in the consultation process. 8 priority areas were identified and are outlined in the strategy.

Background Papers

None

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