

To: **Executive**  
**15 November 2022**

---

**SEND Written Statement of Action implementation update**  
**Executive Director of People**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update members on progress made in the first quarter of the SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA) implementation, following the first review meeting with Department for Education and NHS England.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 **Members to note the progress made and initial feedback from DfE and NHS England relating to the first quarter of implementation.**
- 2.2 **Members to note that in support of improvement area 4, a bid has been submitted to the DfE for a 2022 free special school capital fund**

**3 Reasons for Recommendation(S)**

- 3.1 When the Written Statement of Action was produced it was agreed that the Executive would be provided with quarterly updates on progress made towards implementation of the plan.

**4 Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 None

**5 Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The Written Statement of Action was accepted as fit for purpose by Ofsted in July 2022. Work on the implementation of the plan was already underway and has continued at pace during the last quarter.
- 5.2 The first quarterly review meeting with the Department for Education and NHS England took place on 10 October 2022.
- 5.3 The DfE will provide written notes from the meeting, but these are yet to be received. The verbal feedback during the meeting is summarised in the following points.
- 5.4 The meeting opened with feedback from the DfE that the amount and quality of work delivered to date is impressive. There was a recognition that our focus has been on getting the building blocks in place to ensure we have a solid foundation on which to build further improvements.
- 5.5 Advice was provided on how we can capture the impact of the work on children and families, which will be adopted over the next quarter. The DfE accepted that impact will begin to show at a greater pace as we shift from focusing on building foundations to delivering on wider aspects of the plan.

- 5.6 The DfE were assured by the robust governance, monitoring and tracking arrangements that we have in place for the programme.
- 5.7 We received positive feedback about the co-production work that has been done with parents and carers to develop the new SEND strategy and asked for permission to use the work as an example of good practice to share with other areas. They also commented that the work being done on area 9 was strong regarding raising awareness of available advice, support and social care provision amongst parents and carers. They would like to see progress made in the other element of area 9, which is increasing age-appropriate opportunities for older children and young people with SEND, although they accepted that this work is scheduled for delivery later in our plan.
- 5.8 Feedback from the Parent Carer Forum chair was balanced, highlighting examples of good progress and acknowledging the change and improvement in the approach to communication since the new Interim Head of SEND has been in post. They also highlighted areas that continue to be of concern to members of the forum, namely: input from Health colleagues and progress on reducing waiting times for integrated therapy services, progress on implementing the improvements required to Capita One, and improving provision for post-16.
- 5.9 Feedback from the two head teachers that attended the meeting was positive, with both saying they had confidence in the plan and the commitment from stakeholders to deliver it. One issue raised by head teachers was the need to identify more school place in the borough, but with an acceptance that it was too early to be able to expect the impact to be felt in this area.
- 5.10 At the review meeting we highlighted our intention to submit a bid to the 2022 free special school capital fund and advised that a successful bid would enable us to make significant improvements to our in borough SEND provision, which was highlighted by Ofsted as an area of significant weakness.
- 5.11 Since the DfE review meeting, a bid to the 2022 free special school capital fund has been submitted, seeking funding for two special schools in the borough. One ASD special school to meet the needs of children from KS1 to KS5, creating 100 new special school places in Bracknell Forest. One SEMH special school to meet the needs of children from KS2 to KS4, creating 70 new specialist placements in the borough.
- 5.9 The next review meeting with DfE and NHS England has yet to be scheduled but is due to take place in January 2023. A further update will be provided to the Executive after this review.

## **6 Consultation and Other Considerations**

### Legal Advice

- 6.1 None for this update – this was considered when the WSOA was produced.

### Financial Advice

- 6.2 None for this update – this was considered when the WSOA was produced.

#### Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 None for this update – this was considered when the WSOA was produced.

#### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 None for this update – this was considered when the WSOA was produced.

#### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 None for this update – this was considered when the WSOA was produced.

#### Climate Change Implications

- 6.6 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to:

Reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>/Increase emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>/Have no impact on emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The reasons the Council believes that this will reduce emissions/have no impact on emissions are/To reduce the impact of this increase, the Council will

#### Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.7 None for this update – this was considered when the WSOA was produced.

#### Background Papers

DfE progress review meeting slide deck  
Bracknell Forest WSOA Review 101022  
Bracknell Forest Written Statement of Action

#### Contact for further information

Cheryl Eyre, Assistant Director: Education and Learning - 01344 351492  
Cheryl.eyre@bracknell-forest.gov.uk