

To: **Schools Forum**
22nd June 2023

Delivering Better Value in SEND update

People Directorate: Education and Learning

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND activity.
- 1.2 A project management resource has been identified and members of staff have been recruited into key leadership positions within SEND. The first board meeting for DBV took place on 6 June 2023. At the meeting the terms of the board were outlined, risks reviewed and the membership of working groups (which will begin imminently) agreed.
- 1.3 The project manager is aware of the tight timelines for delivery. There is a key focus on the work that needs to be achieved before the summer holidays, which includes:
 - identifying Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) training course provision; and
 - the decision about a suitable site for Kennel Lane outreach hub and recruitment of staff – note that council officers to ensure this work can be delivered at pace.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 We invite comments and thoughts on any of the activity so far and upcoming activity for Delivering Better Value

3 Reasons for recommendation

- 3.1 There are no recommendations. This item is for consideration and update only

4 Alternative options considered

- 4.1 N/A

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 Bracknell Forest Council applied to the Department of Education (DfE) to participate in the Delivering Better Value initiative, which focuses on the high needs block funding and considers how local authorities can ensure best value for money and efficiencies in the deployment of the funding.
- 5.2 Over 50 local authorities participated in the first wave alongside Bracknell Forest. Extensive analysis of caseloads, data and projects were reviewed, and a direction of travel identified. The DfE required all local authorities to submit projects that would improve SEND delivery and provision, based on the agreed data and assumptions made in the modular assessments.
- 5.3 Three project areas were agreed and developed with stakeholders and the DfE partner organisation, Newton Europe. These are:
 - training for schools and teachers around ASDC including backfill for staff to attend - £96,000;
 - Kennel Lane outreach hub to increase chances of CYP thriving in mainstream settings - £370,000;
 - establishment of a new in-house transitions support team - £416,000; and
 - project management - £118,000.

5.4 The application was submitted to the DfE 17 January 2023 and the DfE panel agreed and notified Bracknell Forest that they were successful in early February 2023.

5.5 Please see more information regarding DBV in the attached annex.

6 Consultation and other considerations

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the main body of the report.

Financial advice

6.2 The DBV delivery programme will be financed from the successful £1m grant funding bid that the council made to the DfE. The workstreams will compliment other initiatives underway within the High Needs Block

Other consultation responses

6.3 N/A

Equalities impact assessment

6.4 An initial equalities impact assessment for the Delivering Better Value projects is being drafted and will be shared with relevant team members for further discussion.

Strategic risk management issues

6.5 None identified.

Climate change implications

6.6 There are no recommendations in Section 2 above, and therefore no climate change implications.

Health and wellbeing considerations

6.7 Collaboration with health and wellbeing will occur through the project board.

Background papers

Please see slides (attached)

Contact for further information

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