

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director
(People)
to Cabinet

(2nd November 2016)

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) STRATEGY

1.0. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform Cabinet of the SEND Strategy for the local area.

2.0. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approves the Barnsley SEND Strategy for adoption by the Authority and notes the Key Performance Indicators, outlined in Appendix 1

3.0. Introduction to the Report

- 3.1 The SEND Strategy is a two year strategy to fundamentally review and reconfigure services and partnerships in Barnsley to deliver the SEND reforms effectively, and improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It is recognised that SEND encompasses children and young people with a broad range of needs. For some their needs will be met by the right education provision. For others they, and their families, will need support from a number of statutory services and this may continue into adulthood.
- 3.2 The Strategy is intended to ensure that Barnsley is positioned to respond to some significant reforms to education, health and social care with regard to meeting the needs of disabled young people and those with SEN aged between 0-25.
- 3.3 The Strategy is a local area strategy and all partners are accountable for its delivery. All early years providers, mainstream schools and post-16 settings are expected to make effective provision for disabled children and those with SEN. Education, health and care services should work together to jointly commission services to deliver integrated support to children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND.
- 3.4 The strategy is based around three key aims which are:
- To improve educational, health and emotional wellbeing outcomes for all Barnsley children with SEN and who are disabled and that the Strategy is owned and supported by all partners.
 - To ensure Barnsley delivers the necessary changes to the assessment of needs and joint commissioning of provision, as set out in the Children and Families Act

(2014) so that children, young people and families have better, integrated support with education, health and social care.

- To address gaps in provision and improve the quality across the full spectrum of provision for children and young people with SEND

4.0. Proposal and Justification

4.1 It is proposed that the Barnsley SEND strategy is endorsed by Cabinet in support of the objective to improve quality of provision and outcomes for young people with SEND.

4.2 The Strategy supports the local authority in meeting their duties under the Children and Families Act, namely to:

- Work with health and social care colleagues, jointly to commission services to deliver integrated support for children and young people with SEN aged 0-25.
- Consult children, young people and their parents, and co-operate with a range of local providers across education, health, social care and voluntary sector partners to deliver the new system, including post-16 education providers such as further education colleges and training providers.
- Work with local partners, parents and young people to co-produce and publish a local offer of SEN services and provision to assist young people in finding employment, obtaining accommodation and participating in society.
- Provide a co-ordinated education, health and care assessment for children and young people aged 0-25 and new Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans that will replace the two existing systems of SEN statements (in schools) and Learning Difficulty Assessments (in further education and training).
- Offer those with EHC plans the option of a personal budget.
- Consider the transition from children's to adult services and whether to use a new power to provide children's services to young people over 18 to smooth their transition

5.0. Implications for Local People and Service Users

5.1 The SEND Strategy is intended to improve the experience of children and families accessing the service in all parts of the Borough, increase their participation in decisions which affect their lives and build resilience and independence in young people with SEND, supporting their transition into adulthood.

6.0. Financial Implications

6.1 Funding for supporting and improving the educational outcomes of children and young people with SEND is mainly provided through the high needs funding block within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). It is envisaged that the implementation of the strategic objectives and high level action plans in the strategy will impact on the overall high needs DSG funding (£13.3M for 2016/17). Further work would be undertaken to determine actual financial impact as details of the action plans are worked through.

6.2 Currently the high needs budget is used to support SEND provision in the following:

- Support to mainstream schools / academies to meet the additional costs of

supporting / raising the attainments of pupils / learners with SEND (£2.5m);

- Funding for specialist provision places in special schools / academies and specialist resource units in mainstream schools / academies (£5.0m);
- Commissioned alternative provision places in the pupil referral unit including statutory provision such as education other than at schools; etc. (£1.4m);
- Placements of children & young people with SEND in external specialist provision e.g. independent and non-maintained special schools (£2.4m);
- Provision for high needs learners at aged 16 to 19 at further education colleges and independent specialist / training providers (£1.0m);
- Support (information, advice, guidance, training, etc.) provided to mainstream schools / academies through the Council's SEN support service (£0.7m)

6.3 It should be noted that the increasing number of children & young people with SEND, the level of needs presented and lack of suitable specialist places within the borough is exerting pressure on available high needs budget. Reported pressures in 2015/16 against the out of authority SEN placement budget and post 16 FE colleges provision was £600k and £100k respectively. The Government has recently consulted on the introduction / implementation of a new national high needs funding formula for allocating funding to authorities based on needs, which would likely see an increase in the level of funding to Barnsley.

6.4 In addition to the use of DSG, there are a number of statutory SEN functions that are supported / funded by the Council from its core resources. These mainly include: Assessment & Review Team and Education Psychology service.

6.5 Further work is planned to be undertaken to determine the actual financial implications of the draft SEND Strategy and action plan.

7.0 Employee Implications

7.1 There are no direct employee implications.

8.0 Communications Implications

8.1 A copy of the Strategy will be placed on The Council's Website, Children's Trust Website and the Barnsley 'I Know I Can' Website

9.0 Consultations

9.1 The Strategy, has been developed in consultation with relevant partners, representatives of the Children's Trust and the Barnsley Parent and Carers' Forum governors.

10.0 Key Policy Considerations

10.1 The Strategy supports Corporate Plan priorities in relation to 'People Achieving their Potential' together with the strategic priorities of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (including that Every child attends school a good school as well as early targeted support to those who need it).

11.0 Tackling Health Inequalities

11.1 One of the objectives of the SEND Strategy will be to ensure that the impact of SEN, disabilities or any other complex needs, upon a child's educational outcomes and overall wellbeing, is minimised so that they can go on to become more active participants and benefit from the economic and social prosperity arising through economic growth in the Borough and improvements in the health and wellbeing of local communities.

12.0 Tackling Poverty

12.1 Please see Paragraph 11.1.

13.0 Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act (2006)

13.1 There are no implications for the Act emerging through the report.

14.0 Consideration of Risks

14.1 The report relates to the Council's statutory duty in relation to special educational needs and disabilities. The Strategy articulates how that duty will be undertaken and as a consequence mitigates risk to the council in relation to education performance and potential failure to meet statutory duties.

15.0 Health and Safety Implications

15.1 There are no implications for the health and safety of the public or employees arising from the report.

16.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

16.1 The Strategy is underpinned by a commitment to The United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child and is fully compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights

17.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

17.1 The Strategy specifically supports the educational achievement of those with special needs and disabilities as part of promoting inclusion, in compliance with the Equality Act.

18.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder

18.1 There are no implications for tackling crime, disorder or anti social behaviour emerging through consideration of the Strategy.

19.0 Conservation of Biodiversity

19.1 There are no implications for the conservation of biodiversity emerging through the report.

20.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

20.1 Not applicable

21.0 List of Appendices

21.1 Appendix 1: The Barnsley Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy

22.0 Details of Background Papers

22.1 Background papers used in the production of this report are available to view by contacting the Education, Early Help and Prevention Team, People Directorate, Barnsley MBC, PO Box 634 Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 9GG

Officer Contact: Margaret Libreri, Service Director (Education, Early Help and Prevention)

Tel. No. 01226 773665 or e-mail margaretlibreri@barnsley.gov.uk

Date: 27th October 2016

Financial Implications/
Consultation
*(to be signed by senior Financial Services officer
where no financial implications)*