

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

TITLE: BARNSLEY DRAFT STRATEGY FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (2022-25)

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	30th November 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Children's Services
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

As part of our local 'offer' to children and young people with special educational needs, including a disability (or SEND) To seek Cabinet's agreement to approve and adopt the Borough's proposed Special Educational Needs (SEND) Strategy, including proposals for ensuring sufficient education placements, together with the draft Accessibility Strategy

Council Plan priority

The Strategy will support the following priorities in the Council Plan:

Healthy Barnsley

- By ensuring all children and young people maintain their health and wellbeing and have access to the borough's excellent cultural attractions, community groups, leisure facilities and outdoor spaces.

Learning Barnsley

- Ensuring all children and young people including those with SEND are supported to achieve good education outcomes and to achieve their potential within sustainable local communities.

Growing Barnsley

- Promoting an inclusive community where all children and young people are prepared well for their adult lives.

Recommendations

That Cabinet approves and adopts the SEND Strategy, including our plans for ensuring the sufficiency of education places and improving accessibility to the curriculum and wider school activity, as part of our continuing drive for improvement and ensuring successful outcomes for all children and young people across the Borough.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The SEND Strategy 2022-25 (Appendix I) takes account of the progress that has been made over the last 2 years, the outcomes of the SEND Area Inspection and the changing context both locally and nationally. In order to improve effectiveness and streamline arrangements, the SEND Strategy now incorporates Preparation for Adulthood and Sufficiency.
- 1.2. We were committed to ensuring that sufficient time was built into the process of development and since January 2022, we have held regular sessions with parents and carers to talk about key priorities. This means that overarching directions identified in the strategy have largely come directly from these discussions. This has also coincided with the SEND & Alternative Green Paper, which has been considered in developing this strategy.
- 1.3. In developing this strategy, we have looked at what is important to children and young people and what they want to do in their lives now, and in the future. We also looked at how children, young people, and their families want services to work with them, from the review and design stage into the services they have access to for support.
- 1.4. The Local Offer live week and the SEND Inclusion conference enabled further coproduction of the strategy from both partners and parents and carers. Stakeholders were invited to share their views and wishes on inclusion and what inclusion means to them. This complimented previous work where partners from across health, education and care gave their views of what inclusion should look like in Barnsley. The Barnsley SEND Parent Carer Alliance was also encouraged to work with us key priorities and the draft strategy.
- 1.5. We were keen to reflect in the strategy what success looked like from the perspective of children and young people and the five outcome areas were proposed by the SEND Youth Forum. These consist of:
 - 1.5.1. Outcome one: independent living
 - 1.5.2. Outcome two: community inclusion
 - 1.5.3. Outcome three: health and wellbeing
 - 1.5.4. Outcome four: education and employment
 - 1.5.5. Outcome five: choice and control
- 1.6. The strategy then sets out:
 - 1.6.1. **What the outcome means to us:** statement/definition
 - 1.6.2. **We will:** the overarching actions we will take.
 - 1.6.3. **As a result, children and young people with SEND will:** the outcomes we are aiming for as we fulfil the actions. These have come directly from the SEND Youth Forum and provide an overarching framework for the underpinning SEND Improvement Programme and Plan.

- 1.7. The SEND Improvement Programme sits under the SEND Strategy and consists of the priority areas of work that need to be accomplished to succeed in achieving the outcome areas.
- 1.8. SEND Sufficiency Strategy
- 1.9. The SEND Sufficiency strategy is appended as it forms an integral part of the SEND Improvement Programme. This outlines how we will comply with our statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient education places to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. This is detailed in Annex 'A' of Appendix 1.
- 1.10. Accessibility Strategy
- 1.11. In addition, the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to publish an Accessibility Strategy for the Borough which indicates how schools should enable children with SEND to access the curriculum and become involved in broader school activity as part of promoting inclusion. The Strategy is detailed in Annex 'B' of Appendix 1.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1. It is proposed to publish the strategy as a live web page on the local offer so that it can be open and transparent, similar to the overall 'Vision' for the Borough by 2030 and the Council Plan. A pdf version of the draft SEND Strategy can be requested but it is not planned to publish the strategy as a document.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1. Financial and Risk

- 3.2 The Council's S151 officer or representative has been consulted as part of drafting this report.
- 3.3 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from the approval / adoption of the attached SEND strategy, it should be noted that the strategy and the underpinning SEND improvement plan would be delivered within a financial context of rising cost pressures and increasing demand for SEND support and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- 3.4 Work has been undertaken to develop a DSG Management Plan, which would form the basis for managing SEND demand and cost pressures over the medium term. This would ensure that spend on children and young people with SEND is sustainable and within allocated resources. The Management Plan, including the set of headline actions would underpin discussions with the DfE under the Safety Valve Intervention Programme to commence in October 2022.

4. Legal

- 4.1. The draft Strategy has been formulated with due regard to the Council's statutory responsibilities towards children and young people with SEND as part of ensuring continued full compliance.

5. Equality

- 5.1. As children and young people with SEND have a protected characteristic under the Equality Act, this Strategy exclusively promotes improvements in the range of outcomes for these vulnerable groups of children.

6. Sustainability

- 6.1. There are no implications for sustainability in the Borough, emerging through this report.

7. Communications

- 7.1. Subject to Cabinet's approval, the draft Strategy will be promoted on the Council's web site page, children and young people with SEND. There will be a live link from the Family Information Page, Local Offer website to the council website and a return option. This will allow service users to navigate easily between council webpages and the Local Offer website.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. The development of the draft Strategy has been informed by the voice and lived experiences of children and young people along with their parents and carers together with the perspective of wider partners and stakeholders
- 8.2 The Council's Senior Management Team has also been consulted on the draft Strategy and has endorsed its objectives

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1. Progress will be reported to Cabinet, primarily through the quarterly corporate performance framework and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the regular series of performance reports concerning children and young people with SEND.
- 9.2. The draft Strategy demonstrates the Council's enduring commitment and passion towards improving the range of outcomes and opportunities for children and young people and their families.

10. GLOSSARY

- 10.1. None, applicable.

11. LIST OF APPENDICES

- 11.1. Appendix 1: Barnsley SEND Strategy (2022-25) including the following
- 11.2. Annex 'A' Education Placement and Sufficiency Plan

11.3. Annex 'B' Draft Accessibility Strategy

12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1** If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

13.0 REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date <i>Joshua Amahwe (26/08/2022)</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Jason Field 26/08/22</i>

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