

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

BOROUGH STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (2020-22)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval for the adoption of the 2020-22 Borough Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), the Children and Young Peoples SEND Plan and Borough Accessibility Strategy 2020-22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves for adoption the:
 1. Borough Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
 2. Children and Young People's SEND Plan
 3. Borough Accessibility Strategy

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The strategies and plan outline how Barnsley Council, with Children and Young People's Trust partners, will meet the needs of Barnsley children and young people with SEND aligned to a shared vision, strategic objectives and priorities.
- 3.2 The SEND strategies and plan build on the key priorities for development outlined within the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan 2019-22 which was approved by Cabinet in May 2019 and on the previous SEND Strategy approved by Cabinet in November 2016.

Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2020-22 (Appendix 1)

- 3.3 The SEND Strategy outlines our current challenges, ambitions and priorities which will be the focus of the Council and its partners across the SEND system between 2020 and 2022.
- 3.4 The strategy has been formulated on the basis of a detailed identification of local need together with the insight and experiences of parents and carers, children and young people, and our statutory partners. The strategy has also been developed to

ensure that the council is able to meet its statutory responsibilities under the Children and Families Act (2014) and SEND Code of Practice (2015).

Children and Young People's SEND Plan (Appendix 2)

- 3.5 The Children and Young People's SEND Plan was co-produced with the Barnsley SEND Youth Forum to improve understanding across the Children and Young People's Trust about what it is like to be a child, young person, or young adult with SEND in Barnsley. The voice of children and young people can be heard throughout the plan both in terms of their experiences but also where they feel the Council and its partners should be focusing their attention and action. The SEND Youth Forum seek views and share feedback with a wide range of children and young people and are working on their own action plan to support what is important to them. The Children and Young People's Trust is committed to ensuring that their voice is heard and directly shapes future practice in Barnsley.
- 3.6 The SEND Youth Forum presented their themes for development to senior leaders from across the Children and Young People's Trust and Barnsley Children Safeguarding Partnership at the Joint Partnership Board in November 2019 and a commitment was made to work proactively together to focus improvement activity within these areas.

Borough Accessibility Strategy (Appendix 3)

- 3.7 The Accessibility Strategy provides a framework and guidance for schools and academies across the borough to support them when developing their own Accessibility Plans as part of their compliance with the Equality Act (2010) and Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED 2011). The key purpose of the borough strategy is to ensure that schools reflect in their local plans how they are to improve access to the curriculum, improve the physical environment of the school and to deliver improved access to information whilst taking account of the overarching strategy for children and young with SEND and the Children and Young People's SEND Plan.

4.0 PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 The proposal to adopt and endorse the strategies and plan will support the Council to ensure that outcomes for children and young people with SEND continue to improve. To ensure effective implementation of the strategies and plans there is a system wide, comprehensive SEND Improvement Programme in place with strategic oversight and accountability through an established SEND Oversight Board which is chaired by the Executive Director People Directorate. In addition, SEND Improvement Plan progress and outcomes are reported to the Children and Young People's Trust. This ensures that strategic leaders across the system are informed and are able to support and challenge as appropriate, to ensure we achieve the key objectives and priorities within the strategy and continue to progress towards our shared vision.
- 4.2 The SEND Youth Forum, as part of their work identified the values they feel should be promoted across the partnership and underpin this strategy. These are:
- Consideration
 - Acceptance

- Consistency
- Fairness in all things
- Kindness
- Quality

These values provide a strong foundation for change and the development and delivery of positive outcomes, underpinned by high quality services.

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- 5.1 As part of maintaining compliance with our statutory responsibility, it is incumbent upon the Local Authority to develop with its partners appropriate strategies to ensure there is a system wide approach to improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND. This will assure children, young people and families that statutory partners provide them with high quality local services which meet need and have been informed by evidence based good practice and through customer insight.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

- 6.1 The set of appended documents will ensure that a place-based, partnership led approach leads to consistent improvements in the outcomes for children and young people with SEND. This is based upon the equitable planning and commissioning of services in all areas of the Borough together with a thorough analysis of needs; local demographic data and customer insight.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).
- 7.2 There are no direct financial implications from approving the attached strategies and plans over and above the following resources deployed on meeting SEND priorities across the borough, namely:
- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding through the high needs block for supporting pupils with SEND.
 - Core funding provided by the Council for SEND related services/activities e.g. Schools Improvement & Evaluation, Education Welfare, Education Psychology and Inclusion services, Home to School Transport, etc.
 - Additional non-recurrent investments for SEND approved by the Council for 2020-21.
 - Spend / investments by partners e.g. Health, schools and academies on SEND related functions.
- 7.3 The attached strategies need to be considered in the context of the significant budget pressures and a financial deficit in the high needs block (both in the current and future years), due to a rising number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans, complex needs and the numbers of learners supported in independent non-maintained settings. Partners in education, health and social care are working

together to develop and implement strategies to address this including a revised SEND Placement Sufficiency Strategy (which is a subject of a future report to Cabinet).

8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct employee implications emerging directly through this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The formulation of a Strategy which details the provision and support that will be available to children and young people with SEND accords with our statutory responsibilities under Part 3 of the Children and Families Act (2014). There are no further legal implications.

10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no issues within the refreshed Strategy or associated documents which will impact upon the availability of the current range of access channels to Council services or the onus in favour of digital transactions.

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Subject to approval and adoption by Cabinet, the objectives of the draft refreshed SEND Strategy, SEND Children and Young People's Plan and Accessibility Strategy will be communicated via the Council's networks and published on the Website. This will be to raise awareness with partner agencies and practitioners of their statutory responsibilities for improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND, improve understand about the lived experiences of SEND children, young people and families, and ensure parents, carers, children and young people have access to the strategies communicating the Barnsley offer.

12.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 Consultation has been undertaken with children and young people with SEND together with their families on the development of the Strategy and associated documents. Consultation has also been undertaken with statutory partners. Further work around the strategies will be undertaken with key stakeholders as we move further towards co-productive ways of working.

13.0 THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 13.1 The SEND Strategy will support the Council's Corporate Plan priority of helping 'People Achieve Their Potential' and 'Thriving and Vibrant Economy'.
- 13.2 The SEND Improvement Programme and associated governance provided by the SEND Oversight Board and the Children and Young People's Trust will drive progress and provide assurance that strategy aims are being achieved.

14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 14.1 The purpose of the SEND Strategy, SEND Children and Young People's Plan and Accessibility Strategy is to improve the range of outcomes of children and young people with SEND. The objectives within this set of documents will have a positive and beneficial impact upon all young people with this protected characteristic, as defined by the Equality Act, Public Sector Equality Duty and Children and Families Act 2014.

15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

- 15.1 The system wide improvements to provision promoted within this set of documents will go further in improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND and this will have a positive impact in raising aspirations and directly contribute to helping children and young people achieve their full potential as part of the transformative aim of education in driving inclusion and social mobility.

16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- 16.1 Similarly, a focus upon the objective of improving the quality of the Education, Health and Care Plan process, including timely access to treatment will aim to ensure that inequalities in the health of children with SEND and their peers are closed as part of a strengths-based approach to the promotion of health and wellbeing.

17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

- 17.1 It should be noted that, as a result of service user insight, the Strategy and Plan will perform a key role in helping safeguard this vulnerable group of children and young people, from bullying and harassment. This will include those children and young people with SEND who identify themselves as being part of a specific race, faith, sexuality or gender.

18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 18.1 Robust governance procedures and arrangements are in place with relation to all aspects of SEND including financial monitoring of provision and where necessary remedial action will be undertaken to manage and mitigate against any risks compromising the progress of the Strategy's objectives and priorities.

19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

- 19.1 There are no implications for the wellbeing of the public or employees and the resilience of the Borough to a major or serious incident, emerging through this report.

20.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

- 20.1 The SEND Strategy, SEND Children and Young People's Plan and Accessibility Strategy accord with the Articles and Protocols of the Convention, particularly those relating to the rights of the child.

21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

- 21.1 There are no implications for the local environment, climate change or the conservation of biodiversity arising through the report.

22.0 GLOSSARY

- 22.1 None applicable.

23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Borough Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disability SEND (2020-22)

Appendix 2: Draft SEND Children and Young People's Plan (2020-22)

Appendix 3: Draft Accessibility Strategy (2020-22)

24.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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Financial Implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (13/03/2020)

*(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer
where no financial implications)*