

## BARNSELY 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 OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO CABINET ON 19 MAY 2021

**Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)**

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To seek Cabinet's support and approval for the adoption of a Preparation for Adulthood Strategy 2021-2022 aimed at improving the pathways into adulthood and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. **That Cabinet approves adoption of the Preparation for Adulthood Strategy 2021- 2022**

#### 3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. The Children and Families Act (2014) introduced a new special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system that encompasses the age ranges 0-25. Statutory and non-statutory guidance is laid out in the SEND Regulations (2014) and the SEND Code of Practice (2015). One intention of the legislation was to avoid the disconnect between children's and adults' services, to ensure a smoother transition to adulthood.
- 3.2. Preparation for adulthood is one of five key priorities within our overarching SEND Strategy 2020-2022:

**I. Early Identification and Support:** Work with early years settings, schools, post 16 providers and universal health providers to get better at identifying and meeting children and young people's additional needs as early as possible.

**II. Quality and Efficiency of education, health and care (EHC) processes:** Improve the planning process so that children, young people, and their parents/carers have a better experience and are confident the plan meets their needs.

**III. Participation and Co-production:** Create more opportunities for children, young people, parents and carers to contribute to, influence, and co-produce strategies and planning for SEND Local Area arrangements.

**IV. Access to Specialist Provision:** Including Specialist School Places “develop special education provision locally so more children can be educated within Barnsley”.

**V. Planning for Pathways to Adulthood:** Develop better pathways to adulthood so that children and young people’s voice, needs and ambitions are our primary focus.

- 3.3. Following the reforms in 2014/15, there has been a significant growth in demand placed on local SEND systems and in the number of young people accessing SEND services who are then making the transition to adult life, e.g. those aged 16-25, account for the largest proportion of the growth in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) over the last five years.
- 3.4. At the heart of the changes is a commitment to ensuring that children, young people and their families are at the centre of decision making so that they have more choice and control in achieving better outcomes and they have been actively involved in the development of the draft strategy.
- 3.5. The SEND Youth Forum have been integral in the development from the earliest stage of identifying the need for the strategy.

#### **4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION**

- 4.1. In Barnsley, we are keen to ensure we get it right for all young people to enable them to achieve the best possible future and we recognise that those with SEND may require more support to get there. That is why preparation for adulthood starts as early as possible, from the early years right through to adulthood.
- 4.2. The strategy is an important aspect in addressing the gap in outcomes for young people with SEND, compared to their non-SEND peers, when it comes to their destinations after they leave school. They are also more vulnerable to not staying in education, training and employment and this means that outcomes as adults are affected.
- 4.3. Most children and young people with SEND can be successful with support from their schools, family and the community but some need more support and the PfA strategy focuses on this as it sets out our shared values, vision and principles for how services will work together to support children and young people with SEND to prepare for adult life.
- 4.4. It is important to consider young people’s long-term ambitions and pathways from the earliest age. This means having a joined-up approach to thinking about long-term outcomes for young people that runs through early years settings, schools, colleges and other education providers.
- 4.5. The strategy includes young people, both with EHCPs and those who have SEN support needs and demonstrates the importance of Annual Reviews and the assess, plan, do, review approach when considering medium and long-term outcomes. This must be done through well-developed and embedded approaches to planning for and supporting young people as they move towards the transition to adulthood.

#### **5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**

- 5.1. In order to comply with its statutory responsibility as outlined in the Children and Families Act (2014) the Council must develop a system which is more effective for

the local population, particularly through improving provision which promotes inclusion and improved longer term outcomes.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS**

- 6.1. Our current SEND Strategy commits to Barnsley being a place where everyone has their voice heard and that this is valued by services. Preparation for adulthood is at the centre of these commitments as we want Barnsley to be a place where:
- 6.1.1. All children and young people live in a safe environment, where they feel listened to, supported and respected.
  - 6.1.2. Children, young people and families make healthy lifestyle choices, and are emotionally well and resilient.
  - 6.1.3. Children and young people enjoy life and its opportunities, achieve their potential and benefit from a good education.
  - 6.1.4. Young people have access to and secure good jobs.
  - 6.1.5. Children and young people become active citizens who contribute to creating a 'Better Barnsley'.
- 6.2. It is clear from these priorities that preparation for adulthood runs through everything we are committed to and it must be embedded across the whole of the local area SEND system.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are no direct resource implications related to the proposed strategy.

## **8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. There are no legal implications to consider through the proposal in this report.

## **10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are no implications for the current range of access channels to Council services or for the onus towards digital transactions, arising through the report.

## **11. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. It is anticipated that, mindful of any restrictions resulting from any further lockdown period or Covid-19 related restrictions, communications regarding this strategy will continue by digital means, through the Local Offer website.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1. Consultations on the strategy will take place via digital means through the Local Offer website. Consultation with the SEND Youth Forum and parents/carers has been ongoing throughout the development.

## **13. EQUALITY IMPACT**

- 13.1. Equality Impact Assessment pre-screening has been completed determining that a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this integral to the equality impact of the overall SEND Strategy.

## **14. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

- 14.1. The proposal will support Outcomes 6 and 7 within the corporate objective of 'People Achieving Their Potential'.

## **15. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY**

- 15.1. The proposed strategy will help promote opportunities to improve the potential future outcomes of a group of children and young people with a protected characteristic, as defined by the Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty.

## **16. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

- 16.1. The proposed strategy will help in ensuring the impact of SEND does not prevent or constrain a child or young person from achieving their potential.
- 16.2. Inclusion will be enhanced through the proposal, which will enable children and young people to go on to become more active citizens and benefit from the economic prosperity and increased social capital arising through improvements in the long-term health and wellbeing of local communities.

## **17. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

- 17.1. There are no implications for tackling crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour arising through consideration of this report.

## **18. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 18.1. The proposed strategy forms part of a wider SEND strategy which intends to ensure the Council complies with its statutory responsibility concerning the future outcomes of children and young people with SEND. The risk management process will be aligned with the SEND Improvement Plan, including monitoring and progress reporting.

## **19. HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES**

19.1. There are no health, safety and emergency resilience issues related to this proposal.

## **20. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

20.1. The draft strategy supports our commitment to and is fully compatible with the rights of the child under the Convention.

## **21. 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. GLOSSARY**

- **EHCP** Education, Health and Care Plan
- **PfA** Preparation for Adulthood
- **SEND** Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

## **23. LIST OF APPENDICES**

23.1. Appendix 1: Draft Preparation for Adulthood Strategy 2021 – 2022.

## **24. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made

**Report author:** Amber Burton

Financial Implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (17/03/2021)

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