

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CHILDREN'S SERVICES) TO CABINET ON 13th JANUARY 2021

INTEGRATING THE LOCAL AREA SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SYSTEM: BARNSELY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY (2020-22)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the recent development of a Borough Strategy for ensuring the engagement and participation of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or disability (SEND) and their parents/carers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet endorses the SEND Engagement and Participation Strategy (Appendix 1) for adoption in the Borough.**

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 In April this year Cabinet endorsed the Borough's refreshed SEND Strategy (2020-22). The Strategy sets out our five key improvement priorities for implementation across the SEND system:
- a. Early identification and support
 - b. Quality and Efficiency of the Education, Health and Care Process
 - c. Participation and Co-production
 - d. Access to specialist provision, including specialist school places
 - e. Planning for Pathways to Adulthood
- 3.2 We give the highest priority to ensure the full engagement and participation of young people and their parent/carers in services that support and affect them. The draft Engagement and Participation Strategy is in response to our key improvement priority area of participation and co-production.
- 3.3 There are around 6,000 individual children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years old in Barnsley. This includes those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and those accessing SEN support. In addition, there are at least 10,000 parents/carers of children and young people with SEND in the Borough.

- 3.4 The draft SEND Engagement and Participation Strategy has been formulated in order to ensure the local area SEND system is maximising all opportunities to ensure effective engagement and participation. The Strategy sets out how a holistic approach will be taken, providing opportunities for engagement and participation at all levels; at an individual family level ensuring children and young people are at heart of the system, when working with services across education, health and care and providing opportunities to co-produce and develop strategy and plans that effect the whole borough.

4.0 PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 An effective local area SEND system should build strong and sustainable methods of engagement and participation led by the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group and, through this, all other partners and stakeholders. When this is in place it will:
- Improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
 - Embed co-production in the development of services
 - Result in an open and transparent and accountable local area SEND system
- 4.3 In developing the draft Engagement and Participation Strategy, Barnsley MBC and the Clinical Commissioning Group have worked together to engage and consult with the SEND Youth Forum and parents/carers, through meetings and online sessions, about their views regarding participation and engagement to ensure that the Strategy reflects these.
- 4.4 In addition, a survey has been undertaken to gain further feedback on parent/carer views.

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- 5.1 Using the feedback gathered through the consultation, it is evident that parent/carer participation remains a complex issue, with no single approach to ensure the range, breadth and depth of engagement and participation we want to achieve. As a local area, we are keen to move forward and ensure we have more frequent dialogue with children, young people and their parents/carers using a range of means to appeal to the broadest range of parents/carers possible.
- 5.2 The hard work and commitment of parents and carers continues and is valued by all stakeholders. It is important to capture what has already taken place and has been incorporated into service and strategy development. To build on this, a wider range of engagement and participation, using a variety of methods, needs also to be implemented so that more children, young people and parents/carers are enabled to be involved. This Strategy outlines the structure for this.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

- 6.1 The development of the SEND Engagement and Participation Strategy will enable all children and young people with SEND, together with their families across the Borough to use their experience in order to inform improvements in the quality of practice and service provision and enable statutory partners to best meet their aspirations.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

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

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No legal implications have emerged through compilation of this report.

10.0 CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no implications for accessing the range of Council services or for the onus towards digital transactions as a result of this report.

11.0 COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Subject to Cabinet's endorsement, the SEND Engagement and Participation Strategy will form the basis of continuing consultation with further cohorts of children and young people with SEND, together with their families, partners and other stakeholders as part of developing a consistent and regular means of ensuring their experiences inform improvements in the planning and commissioning of services and to improve the range of outcomes for such vulnerable children and young people.

12.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 As previously noted, consultations on the development of the draft Strategy have taken place with the SEND Youth Forum and parents and carers' with further consultations planned with more families, statutory partners and stakeholders initially via Covid-19 secure means.
- 12.2. The draft Strategy has also been considered and endorsed by the Council's Senior Management Team

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

- 13.1 The development of a strategy for the engagement and participation of children and young people with SEND, together with their families supports Outcomes 6, 7 and 9

of the Council's Corporate Plan Priority of *People Achieving Their Potential*, namely that:

- Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work.
- To reduce demand by improving access to early help.
- People are healthier, happier, independent and active.

13.2 The progress of children and young people with SEND, together with the measures being taken to continually improve their outcomes and meet their aspirations, is reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis and the SEND Performance and Finance report concerning Quarter 2 (2020/21) was considered last month.

14.0 PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

14.1 The development of the Strategy will positively promote the voice of a group of vulnerable and disadvantaged children with a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act (2010) and Public Service Equality Duty. It ensures that their experience and perspective will inform the planning and commissioning of meaningful services as part of our ambition to provide outstanding children's services in the Borough.

15.0 TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

15.1 The proposed Strategy and its purpose of providing a meaningful voice to children and young people with SEND will add value in supporting the work of the Council and our partners in aiming to help shield families from the impact of multiple forms of deprivation and isolation, particularly by helping equip them with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to successfully access sustainable jobs in the employment market and provide them with the means to live in good health and with dignity.

16.0 TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 Please see Paragraph 15.1.

17.0 REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 There are no implications for the Borough's Strategy to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behavior arising through this report.

18.0 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 No risks have been identified in the development of the SEND Engagement and Participation Strategy and its purpose of promoting and mainstreaming the voice of all cohorts of children and young people with SEND.

19.0 HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

19.1 There are no implications for the health and safety of the public or for the resilience of the Borough to a major or serious incident emerging through the proposed Strategy

20.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 The aim and purpose of the Strategy is entirely compatible with the Articles and Protocols of the EU Convention.

21.0 CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

21.1 There are no implications for the local environment, tackling climate change or for the conservation of biodiversity through considering this report.

22.0 GLOSSARY

22.1 None applicable,

23.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

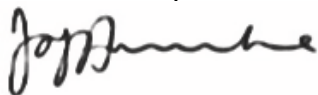
23.1 Appendix 1: Draft Engagement and Participation Strategy for children, young people, parents and carers.

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 (07/01/2021)

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