

Decision Maker: **EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date: **Tuesday 2 July 2013**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **UPDATE ON THE TRANSITION STRATEGY**

Contact Officer: Lorna Blackwood, Assistant Director Commissioning
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Chief Officer: Terry Parkin, Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

A report was presented to the Care Services Policy, Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committee in September 2012 updating on the Integrated Transition Strategy for young people with learning difficulties/ disabilities and that the strategy would be put on hold pending impacts of the emerging findings from the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder.

Reports would be submitted in future to both the Care Services PDS Committee and the Education PDS Committee informing on further reforms by the government on the SEND pathway. It was agreed that this be reflected in the Committee's Work Programme.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Members of PDS are requested to comment on the revised approach to Transition (preparing for adulthood) in light of legislative changes and the outcomes from the SEND Pathfinder.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Supporting Independence:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Contained within current resources.
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: ECH Learning disability services; SEND budget; Pathfinder Grant (DoE)
 4. Total current budget for this head: £24,391,130 (ECH) £11,267,630 (SEND – Revenue Support Grant), £23,965,090 (SEND – Dedicated Schools Grant); £150,000 (Pathfinder)
 5. Source of funding: ECH and SEND budgets
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): An estimated 305 Young People over the next 10 years will be transitioning to Adult services
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Since last reporting to the Care Services PDS Committee, considerable progress has been made on the implementation of the new SEND pathway under the Pathfinder Programme. With the Children & Families Bill proceeding through Parliament on track for a September 2014 implementation and the publication of an indicative Code of Practice further clarification on the impact of preparing young people for adulthood has been ascertained.
- 3.2 Given the intensive work being carried out by the Pathfinder and associated projects, coupled with the rapidly developing landscape of the Governments intentions regarding the 0-25 pathway (e.g. the impact of the Education Funding Reforms from April 2013) the further development of the Transition Strategy has been put on hold as agreed by this Committee.
- 3.3 In April Bromley was awarded continued Pathfinder funding to further build on its work testing the new legislative reforms alongside Champion status that will see Bromley supporting a number of London Authorities in understanding the impact of the SEND reforms
- 3.4 Under the 'invest to save' programme the Maximising Potential Project has commenced. Three Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) coordinators have been employed who have commenced work with an identified cohort of young people aged 14-25yrs to maximise their potential for independence as they prepare for adult life. The team sit within the Commissioning Division of Education, Care and Health Services.
- 3.5 The purpose of the PfA Coordinator role is to work with young people and their families to develop Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans that meet identified need and support long term goals across the four key pathways: work opportunities, independent living, good health and community inclusion.
- 3.6 The project team, working together with young people, families and partners will assist in the development and implementation of six key areas:
- Education, Health and Care Plan with young people and families
 - Outcome based Person Centred Planning
 - Personal budgets
 - Creative and innovative solutions to meet identified need
 - Support mechanisms – developing sustainable circles of support
 - Multi agency working – braiding provision, support and funding
- 3.7 In response to the identified need to develop provision and facilities in borough for young people with more complex needs, Bromley submitted a bid for Demographic Growth Capital Funds (DGCF) and was awarded £2million in June 2012 to completely remodel facilities at Bromley College (full project total £2.4million), which has now been completed and is ready for September 2013 intake.
- 3.8 In addition to the capital build at Bromley College, we are working in partnership across the borough (young people, families, schools, colleges and providers) to develop holistic pathways across education, health and care, enabling a greater number of young people to live, learn and work in their own community and achieve sustained progression leading to better life outcomes. This is being supported through the Raising Aspirations and Improving Choice Project. The main aim of this project is to work collaboratively with a range of partners across the borough to raise aspirations, improve pathways and achieve better life outcomes for young people with disabilities. Through the projects, we will work intensively with a cohort of young people with more complex needs to enable them to live and learn within their own community whilst accessing the new facilities at Bromley College.

- 3.9 We are reviewing and re-commissioning a range of children's and adult services to meet the needs of young people and their families, supporting them to be confident in our Local Offer i.e. good Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) services and 7 day a week day opportunities alongside employment pathways.
- 3.10 Integral to the SEND reforms are three prime duties that underpin the holistic approach to supporting those young people as they progress along the 0-25 pathway.
- 3.11 The first element is that parents and young people are at the heart of the processes and decisions that will affect the lives of children and young people with SEND, that it is a **family centred approach**.
- 3.12 Local authorities must ensure that parents and young people are involved when they are:
- planning and reviewing the local offer;
 - reviewing special educational and social care provision;
 - drawing up individual EHC plans, and in reviews and reassessments.
- 3.13 Commissioning of support is underway to facilitate parent, children and young people involvement in the implementation phase of the SEND reforms. Parents and young people are engaged and represented on all elements of the Pathfinder implementation. A 'Preparing for Adulthood' conference was run by the Council in February for parents and young people and a series of 'Question and Answer' sessions are being run through the SEND schools for those year 9+ parents. Officers have also supported the Bromley Parent Voice conference with workshops on the impact of the SEND reforms for young people approaching adulthood.
- 3.14 Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans are integrated support plans for children and young people with SEN from 0 to 25. They are focused on achieving outcomes and helping children and young people make a positive transition to adulthood, including into paid employment and independent living. They will be produced in partnership with parents, children and young people and will be based on a coordinated approach to the delivery of services across education, health and care.
- 3.15 The great majority of children and young people with SEN will have their needs met within their local mainstream school or college. In a small number of cases, planning will identify a need to conduct formal assessments of education, health and care needs, leading to an EHC plan. A statutory assessment should not be the first step in the planning process; rather it should flow from planning undertaken with parents and young people. The statutory assessment process must be co-ordinated across education, health and care to ensure a cohesive experience for children, parents and young people. Information from existing relevant assessments should be used and professionals should share information so that families do not have to keep giving the same information to different professionals. A key approach that ensures that parents and carers, children and young people are actively placed at the heart of the system is person centred planning. A person centred approach to planning means that planning should start with the individual (not with services), and take account of their wishes and aspirations, and the support they need to be included and involved in their community. It aims to empower parents, children and young people so that they have more control over assessment and decision-making processes.
- 3.16 As part of the Pathfinder requirements we have 45 signed up families undergoing an EHC plan across the 11-25 age groups. Parents & young people are intrinsically involved in both developing the documentation, defining the process and capturing any learning in order to feed back to the Department of Education as part of the national assessment of the EHC process.

- 3.17 Local Authorities are required to produce a Local Offer - to provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information in one place about the support and opportunities that are available, information about provision they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from 0 to 25 who have SEN; and to make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children and young people with SEN, parents and carers, and service providers in its development and review.
- 3.18 Bromley's Local Offer is being developed across three tranches: 0-5yrs, 5-16yrs and 16-25yrs. Services have focused on universal, targeted and specialist support across education, health, care and integrated work. Information is being gathered to launch the Bromley Local Offer website. It is envisaged that the draft Local Offer will be published by 30 June 2013. A draft education local offer has been produced in March 2013 for mainstream schools, which includes expectations for provisions up to £6k, clear criteria for top up funding, a banded funded formula above £6k and EHC thresholds. The local offer has also been considered by the Young Advisors, with a comprehensive report produced.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The overarching 'Improving Lives – Supporting Families: Disability Strategy for Children and Young People in Bromley' clearly identified amongst its key aims the improved transition planning for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All actions arising from the implementation of the SEND reforms will need to be met within existing resources.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Pathfinder programme was implemented as part of the Department of Education's consultation on its Green Paper. The proposed timeline is that this Bill will receive Royal Assent in April 2014 with implementation in September 2014.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Indicative Code of Practice http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news/january-june-2013/indicative-drafts-of-the-special-educational-needs-code-of-practice-and-regulations-published Children & Families Bill http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/childrenandfamilies.html