

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**Briefing for Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 30th September 2014**

DISABILITY STRATEGY

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1. Summary

- 1.1 Fulfilling Lives – the strategy for people with Learning Disabilities in Bromley requires a refresh in order to bring it up to date with the legislative changes occurring across care, health and education.
- 1.2 It is therefore the intention to engage with key stakeholders (young people and adults with a disability, families, carers, voluntary sector organisations etc.) in the development and consultation of a draft strategy.

2. **THE BRIEFING**

- 2.1 On September 1st 2014 the new Children and Families Act came into law. The changes enshrined within this Act will see young people in receipt of an Education, Health and Care plan receiving services under the Act until potentially the age of 25. Other significant changes include a greater emphasis on co-production of services, personal budgets and an integrated model of support across care, health and education which ensure that the young person is in control and supported in the way they choose to achieve their goals.
- 2.2 The introduction of the Care Act in April 2015 will also see an emphasis placed on effective and timely transition planning for young people as they approach adulthood in order to maximise the move into work/adult life in such a way as to promote their independence and so reduce their long term needs for care and support.
- 2.3 With these changes in mind it is therefore proposed that the new strategy should commence from the age of 14, the age from which transition planning under the Children and Families Act is required to commence. This will enable the development of a clear, strategic, multi-agency, agreed seamless approach on how local services work to meet the needs of disabled young people in their transition to adulthood.
- 2.4 This strategy will affect all disabled people; whether they are part of the 1900 young people and children with statements of special educational needs (SEN), children with educational and behavioural difficulties, or of the projected 7.3% increase over the next 8 years in adults with some level of learning difficulties or those with more significant difficulties that result in exclusion from the lifestyle that the rest of us take for granted. However, primarily this strategy

will be targeted at improving the lives of the most disabled people in Bromley as by meeting the needs, wishes and aspirations of the most vulnerable we will improve the life chances of everyone.

- 2.5 As the intention is to adopt a 'whole-life' approach then the engagement of health through both the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Public Health is of necessity. Both of these bodies will be involved in the development and consultation on the new strategy in order to support the holistic approach to supporting people through either targeted or universal services.
- 2.6 This strategy will encompass the current Transition strategy and the Autism Commissioning Plan. Secondary tier strategies and plans, for example the Health Access Forum Action Plan will also be reflected in order to ensure that there is no duplication of effort and resources. The strategy itself will be informed by a range of local plans such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Building a Better Bromley, the Market Position Statement and the Carers Strategy.
- 2.7 A consultation and engagement process will commence involving Advocacy for All, Bromley Mencap, Burgess Autistic Trust, Experts by Experience, Bromley Parent Voice and other key representative groups and organisations.
Easy read versions of the consultation documents will also be produced in order to ensure accessibility to the process.
- 2.8 The strategy will be built around the following broad themes that will be tested and populated through the consultation and engagement process in order to ensure that they encompass the scope
- Preparing for Adulthood
 - Education, Training & Employment
 - Community Opportunities
 - Good Health
 - Choice & Control/independence
 - Staying Safe
 - Growing Older/End of Life
 - Complex Needs
- 2.9 The strategy will acknowledge the pressures, particularly the national economic situation, that face not only this Council, the CCG and providers, but also have an impact on people with a learning disability and their families/carers.
- 2.10 Consultation and engagement with the stakeholders identified in 2.7 above will commence in October to formulate a draft strategy which will be presented to the relevant Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees in January 2015. The new strategy will define our commitment to young people and adults with a disability in Bromley and set out our intentions for the next five years.