

## **London Borough of Bromley**

### **PART 1 - PUBLIC**

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

## **PERSONAL BUDGETS & DIRECT PAYMENTS POLICY UPDATE**

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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The SEN Code of Practice (May 2014) and the Children & Families Act 2014 state that all children and young people from birth to 25 who are in receipt of an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) will be able to request a Personal Budget from 1 September 2014.
- 1.2 The local authority is required to publish its policy in respect of Personal Budgets and the EHC Implementation Team have produced the first document in this respect which is related to Personal Budgets in Education.
- 1.3 This policy is attached for the purpose of an information item for the Education Services Portfolio Holder.

### **2. THE BRIEFING**

- 2.1 With effect from 1 September 2014 all children and young people from birth to 25 who are in receipt of an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) will be able to request a Personal Budget from 1 September 2014. (EHC plans have effectively replaced Statements of Education Need).
- 2.2 Appendix One attached details the specific criteria wherein a request for a Personal Budget for education purposes might be considered
- 2.3 Personal Budgets are not additional resources. They are intended, where appropriate, to enable resources to be used flexibly in order to meet the needs and achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.4 In LBB Education much of the resource is bound up in block contracting arrangements which deliver services to groups of pupils/students. With a block contracting arrangement a resource cannot usually be specifically identifiable as attributable to an individual child or young person. A Personal Budget would not be appropriate if appropriate provision was already available within a block contracting arrangement.
- 2.5 The consideration of a Personal Budget in education must be mindful of any detrimental effect this could have on services for other pupils/students, and if a detrimental effect might prevail a Personal Budget would not be appropriate.

- 2.6 A Personal Budget in education will therefore only be considered for services which would ordinarily be provided for the sole use of, or sole support of, an individual child.
- 2.7 The funding for a Personal Budget in education is drawn from the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 2.8 The processes for management of a Personal Budget are already well established in Bromley within Adults and Childrens Social Care, including close monitoring and auditing procedures, and these processes will be adopted for education Personal Budget purposes.
- 2.8 Council officers have worked with parental representatives on the development of this policy and a 'parent friendly' version is being prepared for adding to Bromley's website.
- 2.9 It is the intention of the new legislation to bring together funding from Education, Social Care and Health to enable a single EHC Personal Budget which enables focus upon holistic and child centre support. This development work is progressing and is planned to roll out in Bromley within the next three months.