

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 8th July 2015

**UPDATE FROM EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

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1. Summary

1.1 This report provides Members with an update following the meeting of the Executive Member Officer Working Party for Special Educational Needs held on 4th June 2015.

2. **THE BRIEFING**

2.1 A number of items were considered as part of the meeting:

Information on the Number and Outcomes of Special Educational Needs Transport Appeals

2.2 Members received a presentation outlining the number and outcome of special educational needs transport appeals in Bromley.

2.3 Special educational needs transport was provided to all young people in receipt of a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan who met the advisory criteria set by the Department for Education.

2.4 There were currently 780 Bromley children and young people receiving special educational needs transport. Of these, 75 children and young people were in receipt of transport assistance on an exceptional basis. In the past year, 17 formal appeals had been made for transport assistance, 11 of which had been successful.

Proportion of Children with SEND in each School across the Borough

2.5 Members received an update outlining the Borough's approach to supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and the proportion of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities attending each school across the Borough.

2.6 There were four special schools in the Borough, as well as a number of specialist units at both primary and secondary level which supported children and young people with a range of needs. Where appropriate, in or out-of-Borough day or boarding provision was offered to individual pupils to meet their specialist needs, and the Local Authority was part of the South

East London Cross Borough Consortium which brought together 10 local authorities in a dynamic purchasing system to secure high quality education placements at a fair price.

- 2.7 A number of challenges had been identified for the future provision of support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. These included the increasing school population, the need to ensure that sufficient high quality specialist provision was available in-Borough and that parents and carers had confidence in the local offer, and the requirement to transition all statements to Education, Health and Care Plans by April 2018.
- 2.8 To address these issues, a range of work was being undertaken which included strategic pupil place planning and the provision of additional high quality places at special schools and specialist units across the Borough. The Preparation for Adulthood Team was working to support the development of appropriate local provision, work experience and internships for young people with special educational needs and disabilities as they moved towards employment and training. An action plan was also under development following a comprehensive review of Bromley special educational needs and disabilities undertaken in Autumn 2014 to ensure that specialist educational needs and disabilities provision across the Borough continued to be fit for purpose into the future.
- 2.9 The London Boroughs of Bromley and Enfield had been selected as SEND Regional Leads for London for 2015/16 to support all London local authorities in the delivery of the new special educational needs and disabilities reform agenda, including meeting the statutory requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014.

Update on the Transfer of Statements to EHC Plans

- 2.10 Members received a presentation providing an update on the transfer of statements to Education, Health and Care Plans.
- 2.11 The Children and Families Act 2014 came into force on 1st September 2014. Under this Act, special educational needs statements were replaced with more holistic Education, Health and Care Plans, with a requirement to transfer all existing statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments to Education, Health and Care Plans by April 2018.
- 2.12 There were currently 1849 children and young people with statements or an Education, Health and Care Plan in the Borough, with 1602 children and young people still requiring the transition of their statement to an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- 2.13 To support the transfer of all existing statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments to Education, Health and Care Plans by April 2018, a transition plan had been agreed. A range of actions had been identified to support the transfer process, including the recruitment of additional staff funded through the SEN Reform Grant, close working with partners and stakeholders, and the continued use of Pupil Resource Agreements which offered a flexible and effective alternative to Education, Health and Care Plans for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities where appropriate.