

PART 1 - PUBLIC**Decision Maker:** Executive**Date:** 28th March 2018**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key**Title:** **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES REFORMS GRANT - DRAWDOWN AND CARRY FORWARD OF CONTINGENCY GOVERNMENT (NEW BURDENS) GRANT FUNDING****Contact Officer:** Debi Christie, SEND Operations Manager: Services
Tel: 020 8461 7896 E-mail: debi.christie@bromley.gov.uk**Chief Officer:** Ade Adetosoye, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services**Ward:** All wards**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

This report is seeking approval for the following:

- a) SEND Implementation (New Burdens) Grant 2018/19 – draw down of £188,985
- b) SEND Implementation (New Burdens) Grant 2017/18 – draw down the remainder of the 2017/18 grant of £20,977, which was kept in contingency
- c) SEND Preparation for Employment grant 2018/19 – draw down of £63,328
- d) Total grant drawdown - £273,290

2. RECOMMENDATIONS**The Executive is asked to:**

- i. Approve the drawdown of the final year of the SEND Implementation Grant 2018/19 of £188,985
- ii. Approve the drawdown of the remainder of the 2017/18 SEND Implementation Grant of £20,977 kept in contingency
- iii. Approve the drawdown of the SEND Preparation for Employment grant 2018/19 of £63,328
- iv. Approve the total grant drawdown - £273,290

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy. Education Care and Health Services and Government Directed
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: <please select> £273,290
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-recurring cost.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: SEN/D Reform Implementation (136034)
 4. Total current budget for this head: £273,290
 5. Source of funding: DfE grant
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): currently five members of staff, three of whom are continuing on short term contracts for a period of one year only and two, which are funded as new short term posts to drive forward the implementation programme
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: n/a
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement. The Children and Families Act 2014
 2. Call-in: Call-in is applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Aproximately 6,000 children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, 2,112 of whom have a statutory Statement of SEN or an Education Health and Care Plan
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Children and Families Act (2014) introduced the most far reaching reforms in a generation for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The reforms centre on what is important for children, young people and their parents and are designed to place them at the heart of the system. The aim is to improve learning and life outcomes through new ways of working across education, health and social care.
- 3.2 The SEND Implementation Grant from Government is to help local authorities implement the reforms, in accordance with the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and underpinning legislation. The Grant can be used in a number of ways to change working practice across education, social care and health services.

3.3 SEND Implementation Grant in Bromley 2017/18

- 3.3.1 In Bromley, SEND Implementation Grant has funded two key work streams:

- The pace of conversions from SEN statements to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans) was not as fast as it should have been in Bromley and a recovery plan was implemented from August 2017 to ensure the local authority meets its statutory duty. Additional funding was used to engage a project manager and increase staff capacity. In September 2017, there were 563 statements of SEN to be converted. The current figure is 187 and, apart from a small number subject to ongoing litigation, we anticipate completion of the programme by 31st March 2018. Progress has been monitored rigorously by the DfE who have congratulated Bromley on the rapid improvement and current progress. However, the emphasis on converting SEN statements to EHC Plans has not addressed the quality of assessment and resulting plans.
- The Local Authority commissioned an extensive review of its arrangements for SEND, carried out by an external consultancy (send4change). The first phase, between July and December 2017, was complemented by an inspection health check led by the SEND Strategic lead, a former HMI and national lead for SEND at Ofsted. Ofsted's inspection of SEND arrangements in the local area will evaluate the impact of local authority leadership and our services, together with those provided by partners across education, care, health and the voluntary sector, on outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

- 3.3.2 The SEND review and the inspection health check highlighted some good practice in Bromley and some areas of weakness where urgent improvements are required. An improvement plan has been developed to address these. The SEND Strategic Lead will lead implementation of the plan and progress will be monitored through the SEND Reforms Governance Board.

3.4 SEND Implementation Grant in Bromley 2018/19

- 3.4.1 The improvements required in Bromley are extensive and approval of the drawdown of this resource will enable Bromley to make the changes required, ensuring statutory compliance. There are five areas which require immediate improvement:
- planning and developing our specialist educational provision to ensure that there is a suitable range of provision locally for children with complex needs, so reducing our reliance on placements in schools outside the borough;
 - establishing consistently good support for children with SEND in local, mainstream schools and settings;
 - developing a continuum of provision for children with social, emotional and mental health needs;

- improving the quality and consistency of SEND assessment and planning and engaging children, young people and their parents more effectively in planning and evaluating the services they need;
 - preparing young people for adult life and employment
- 3.4.2 The proposal is to use SEND Implementation Grant and SEND Preparation for Employment Grant to support improvement in these areas through:
- extending the work of the SEND Strategic Lead to ensure the SEND improvement plan is implemented at a pace;
 - developing a quality assurance process for SEND assessment and planning which promotes the engagement of children, young people and their parents in co-producing their EHC Plans;
 - supporting staffing capacity and providing staff development to help staff adopt new ways of working;
 - embedding relationships with voluntary sector organisations who support engagement;
 - providing job coach training to increase the pool of expert job coaches available to support young people with SEND on work placements;
 - developing local, supported internship forums to bring together education providers and employers to identify local opportunities and overcome the barriers to supported internship.

- 3.4.3 All these activities are consistent with the terms of the grants.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The grants that will sit in the Council's central contingency for 2018/19 includes the 2018/19 SEND Implementation Grant, totalling £209,962 (including carry forward) and the Preparation for Employment grant £63,328. The total of the grant therefore is £273,290.
- 4.2 This funding will be used to provide the capacity required to implement the SEND reforms, developing services and provision; developing more robust quality assurance practices, embedding the improved working practices and putting in place an online portal to 'house' the full end to end statutory assessment and review process.
- 4.3 The table below provides a summary of the planned expenditure of the grants available, totalling £273,290:

Funded Element	Detail	2018/19
SEND Strategic Lead	Providing strategic oversight to the implementation of the SEND reforms, including services changes required to meet statutory duties	£62,500
SEND Quality Assurance Lead	Critical role in developing and embedding consistent and high quality across education, health and care	£40,000
Assessment & Placement Officers	Continued capacity to manage the casework required to deliver the end to end statutory assessment and review process. These roles will be critical to embedding the quality this is required	£69,150
Voluntary agencies	Supporting key statutory elements of the reforms, including engagement, co-production and involvement of children, young people and parent/carers	£38,750
Preparing for Employment	Job coach training, setting up of Supported Internship forums and employer engagement	£62,890
Total		£273,290

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Existing policy: Building a Better Bromley

- **Supporting Children and Young people:** encourage excellent educational opportunities from the early years through to further and higher education for all Bromley children and young people including those with special educational needs.
- **Supporting Independence:** through working with partners, ensure the provision of high quality locally relevant information and advice about care and support needs to enable choice and control
- **Healthy Bromley:** ensure that health and wellbeing priorities are integrated within all areas of the Building a Better Bromley framework

5.2 Education Care and Health Services Business Plan 2018/19 (draft)

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal Requirement: new statutory regulations (Children & Families Act September 2014) ensuring statutory compliance across Bromley and London. A new SEN Code of Practice recently published again ensuring compliance.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Number of staff; currently five members of staff, three of whom are continuing on short term contracts for a period of one year only and two are short term temporary posts, specific to embedding the reforms.

Non-Applicable Sections:	None.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	DfE Documentation: Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEN & Disability Code of Practice 0-25yrs 2015