

Decision Maker: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date: THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2019

Title: SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)
UPDATE

Contact Officer: Debi Christie, Head of Service: Special Educational Needs
Education, Care and Health Services, London Borough of Bromley
Tel: 020 8461 7896 E-mail: debi.christie@bromley.gov.uk

Ward: Borough-wide

1. SUMMARY

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to comment on this update on the SEND Reforms work and continued focus on preparation for the local area inspection.

2. REASON FOR REPORT GOING TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

To be considered under JSNA Section 4: Children and young people with established needs

3. SPECIFIC ACTION REQUIRED BY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND ITS CONSTITUENT PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Report provided for comment and scrutiny. LB Bromley and Bromley CCG are the lead agencies in the local area.

Health & Wellbeing Strategy

1. Related priority: [Delete as appropriate] Children with Complex Needs and Disabilities Children with Mental and Emotional Health Problems

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Total savings: Not Applicable:
 4. Budget host organisation:
 5. Source of funding:
 6. Beneficiary/beneficiaries of any savings:
-

Supporting Public Health Outcome Indicator(s)

Not Applicable:

4. COMMENTARY

- 4.1 The London Borough of Bromley (LBB), NHS Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) and Bromley Parent Voice (BPV) share a strong and clearly stated commitment to improving the education, health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The commitment comes from the highest levels and is implemented through effective joint governance (SEND Governance Board) which is driving rapid improvement. Bromley aspires to provide outstanding services for children and young people which keep them safe, give them the right help at the right time in their lives and which achieve positive outcomes for their journey into adulthood.

Our programme for change continues to be challenging, responding with determination to improve our services for children and young people who have SEND. Supported by the strength of the partnership across the network of services for children and young people:

'Partners have joined together in the Children's Executive Board to reaffirm a commitment to joint planning and delivery of services to improve the life chances of Bromley's children and young people. Partners share the understanding that all agencies are experiencing funding pressures and national expectations on services are increasing. We recognise that both strategic and operational collaboration are key to our collective success. We understand that innovation and excellence are possible only through the combined efforts of our committed and skilled children's services' workforce, in whatever agency they sit.'

- 4.2 Bromley is managing a continued and unprecedented increase in demand for provision for children and young people who have SEND with significant pressure on High Needs Funding and local provision. Currently 2,251 Bromley children and young people have an EHCP (April 2019) and a further 5,845 aged 2 to 19 with SEN Support (January 2019 census).
- 4.3 Since 2014, there has been a 15% increase in the number of children with statements or EHCPs compared with an 8.4% increase in the school age population. A lower proportion of Bromley children with an EHCP (26%) attend a mainstream school than for London as a whole (39%) or nationally (34%). More Bromley children (than nationally) attend a non-maintained or independent school, in many cases outside the borough, although local specialist provision is often of better quality.
- 4.4 **Our Journey to Excellence: SEND Strategic Vision and Priorities 2019-22** is an extension of the previously published Vision and Priorities that covered the period 2018/19. In March 2019, the SEND Governance Board endorsed the development of a three-year vision and priorities, based on five key areas of focus, building on the improvement journey. The five focus areas are split into two themes underpinning our local priorities as shown below:

LOCALISING & STRETCHING

Priority 1: Right provision at the right time for children and young people with SEN Support

Priority 2: Sufficient specialist provision

ACCOUNTABILITY

Priority 3: Fair, transparent and coordinated assessment and decision making, across education, health and care services

Priority 4: Coordinating SEND Services 0-25yrs

Priority 5: Engaging Children & Young People and their families

5. PROGRESS ON ACTION PLAN IN SEND VISION AND PRIORITIES 2018-19

5.1 Priority 1: Good SEN support arrangements are in place in all Bromley mainstream education settings

5.1.1 Areas of progress:

A Group Leader for the SEN Advisory Teams was appointed in January 2019 and the impact of the role is being felt with the realignment of the service to provide a single point of access supported by a central telephone number. Advisory Teachers provide a vital source of skills, capacity and expertise to support schools and settings across a range of SEN areas ensuring children and young people are provided with high quality teaching and learning.

The SEN training Collaborative continue to make good progress and have appointed seven SEND Specialist Leaders in Education (SLEs) to work across the borough. Leadership and peer support is seen as the key to improving outcomes for the Collaborative who recently hosted a forum for HeadTeachers – the event was incredibly well attended with 30 schools committing to being part of a programme to continue to develop leadership for SEND

Representation from leaders from local schools is growing and there are a number of very successful working groups across the local area tackling critical issues such as the SEN notional budget, which has led to a training session for all schools in June to ensure there is a consistent understanding of how the notional budget is calculated, what it should be used for and how schools should be appropriately supported and then held to account for use of their notional budget.

Other actions within the priority include the creation of a Nurture Group Network whose main aim is to increase the number of schools working

towards the Nurture Mark and facilitating a process for schools who want to establish nurture provision in their schools.

5.1.2 Areas for further focus:

Plans are still in the early phase for sampling and evaluating the quality of SEN support in mainstream settings as there is a general recognition that there is a need to drive greater consistency across the borough.

5.2 Priority 2: Outcomes for young people who have SEMH needs are improved

5.2.1 Areas of progress:

The number of children permanently excluded from primary schools continues to fall – this is mainly attributed to the continued excellent work of the Primary outreach service, provided by Bromley Trust Academy

Permanent exclusions in the secondary phase are also significantly decreased but remains a high priority to reduce further. The Council has invested £250k in a multiagency collaboration across secondary schools to better support young people who have SEND by developing a wide offer of Alternative Provision for young people unable to sustain school placement. A report will be presented at the Governance Board on 21st May to outline progress and impact to date.

5.2.2 Areas for further focus:

In December 2018, the bid to be a CAMHS trailblazer was awarded to Bromley, with two main aims:

- Reduce waiting times for appointments to 4 weeks
- Build upon existing provision, creating Mental Health teams in schools that increase support

Schools have now been identified to participate in the schools' pilot and we are now in the implementation phase.

5.3 Priority 3: A suitable range of local specialist provision is available

5.3.1 Areas of progress:

Bromley has been successful in moving to the next phase for the delivery of Free Special School for 54 children in the Key Stage 2 phase who have moderate to severe ASD and associated learning difficulties (including anxiety and/or behaviours that challenge).

The project is ambitious and seeks to develop an integrated multi-agency model in partnership with the CCG, also providing a range of support, advice, activities and training. A stakeholder engagement event is taking place in

partnership with CCG, BPV, DfE and the National Schools Network on 22nd May 2019, which will provide further information to interested parties with an opportunity for discussion with partners from the local area. The projected date for opening is September 2020, but is reliant on DfE timescales.

Transition for young people remains a key area for development nationally and will undoubtedly be a key line of enquiry in the forthcoming Ofsted/CQC local area SEND inspection. The local area has established a multi-agency Transition Strategic Group, with an ambitious action plan that is presented to the SEND Governance Board for scrutiny.

5.3.2 Areas for further focus:

The contract for the provision of speech and language therapy for school age children and young people is currently under review jointly by the CCG and LBB. The proposal for a re-specified contract is underway and it is anticipated that additional and more flexible provision will be in place by September 2019.

5.4 Priority 4: Children, young people and families are actively engaged in planning, commissioning and evaluating services

5.4.1 Areas of progress:

Progress within this priority has been considerable over the last 3 months. The SEND Engagement Strategy has been published in line with the overarching service user engagement and the priority now reports a bi-monthly 'You said, we did' summary to the SEND Governance Board which is then uploaded onto the Local Offer.

Communication to all stakeholders remains one of the key focus areas in this priority. SEND Matters is a monthly newsletter that is published on the Local Offer website and circulated to a wide range of partners and providers. We are working closely with Bromley Parent Voice (BPV) who are coordinating SEND Matters Live! Events. This is an important opportunity for parents to meet with key staff from the Council, including the Interim Chief Executive. The events will be themed, which have been informed by parental feedback, with the first will be focused on Inclusion

Recognising that all partners and providers should be championing support for children and young people who have SEND, we are currently building a network of SEND Network Champions across the local area to disseminate and embed the key principles of SEND.

To increase engagement with children and young people an event in March, hosted by KIDS charity, to support young people to have their voice heard. The event was attended by 25 young people from a range of schools, groups and colleges. The event provided a clear message from the young people who took part about the lack of self-esteem and confidence they feel. Actions to help address these issues will be included in the 2019/22 strategic vision and priorities.

5.4.2 Areas for further focus:

The quality of the Bromley Local Offer remains an area of focus with the recent migration from MyLife to the Bromley corporate site. A new jointly funded (LBB and CCG) post is now being recruited to whose focus is to increase content, ensure accuracy and promote the site, resulting in significant improvements to the quality of the Local Offer website. The role is the Local Offer Development Officer (LODO).

5.5 Priority 5: LBB and CCG deliver an excellent service to all its families and stakeholders which is equitable, clear and transparent.

5.5.1 Areas of progress:

Within the SEN Statutory Assessment Team an action plan presented to the Board in March showed there has been a considerable amount of progress towards improving the processes and quality of the SEN statutory procedures in Bromley.

To increase transparency and improve efficiency of statutory assessments even further an EHC on-line Portal is being shaped and tested through phased implementation with a third of schools now being part of the trial, with full implementation due in September 2019.

The SEND Governance Board and the Children's Executive Board (and the partners represented on these boards) now have a shared data set to monitor the impact of the SEND action plan on children's lives. To further improve accuracy of the data a full data cleanse across systems ensures information is correct.

5.5.2 Areas for further focus:

Our data shows that the number of Children and Young People with Autism in Bromley is higher than our statistical and geographical neighbours. In response, the Bromley Autism Partnership Project has been established to drive change and outcomes for CYP with Autism. A range of engagement and consultation has taken place with over 400 parents and stakeholders giving their views, drawing out the main themes. The next steps is to agree the priority themes launching a '100 day test' where ideas are co-produced, tested and then implemented within this timeframe.

6. INSPECTION PREPARATION

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the SEND Local Area Ofsted/CQC inspection will take place within this calendar year, with an expectation of it being within the Summer term 2019. The local area has developed a self-evaluation which has been regularly updated and accountable to the SEND Board. It provides an overview against the three key areas of inspection:

- How effectively does the local area **identify** children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- How effectively does the local area **assess and meet the needs** of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- How effectively does the local area **improve outcomes** for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?

6.2 Throughout the month of April a series of one hour themed inspection readiness groups took place which involved stakeholders from across the local area, aligned to potential key lines of enquiry.

Inspection Readiness Groups – Potential Key Lines of Enquiry
1. Preparing for adulthood and transition
2. Participation, involvement and engagement with parent/carers and CYP
3. Education progress and Outcomes
4. SEN Support and Early Intervention
5. Health and Care Outcomes
6. Statutory Decision Making Process
7. Children Missing Education
8. SEMH/CAMHS focus
9. Mediation and Tribunals
10. Joint Commissioning arrangements
11. Autism

7. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are amongst the most vulnerable in the Borough. Our ongoing work to develop and improve services is monitored by the SEND Governance Board to ensure its impact in improving outcomes.

8. IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS, BOARDS AND PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING ANY POLICY AND FINANCIAL CHANGES, REQUIRED TO PROCESS THE ITEM

SEND Governance Board continues to report to the Children’s Executive Board as part of its formal governance arrangements

9. COMMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, LB BROMLEY

Bromley local authority, Bromley CCG and our partners are committed to ensuring that children and young people aged 0 to 25 years, who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, are well supported and empowered to lead full and rewarding lives.

Comments are welcomed from the Health and Wellbeing Board on the progress being made to implement the SEND Reforms and further improve the services

and support available to children and young people with SEND and their families.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial, Legal implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	N/A