

Decision Maker: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date: THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2019

Title: SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)
UPDATE

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Ward: Borough-wide

1. SUMMARY

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to comment on this update on the SEND Reforms work.

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:
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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 our partners 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 2,449 Bromley children and young people have an EHCP (October 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:

Priority 1: The right provision at the right time is available for children and young people who have SEND, accessing universal and targeted services

Priority 2: There is good local specialist provision and support for children and young people who have SEND

Priority 3: We have consistent, transparent, timely and coordinated services across Education, Health and Care

Priority 4: We are delivering effective coordination of SEND Services 0-25

Priority 5: We are effectively engaging children, young people and their families

- 4.5 The 2019-22 SEND Strategic Vision and Priorities is supported by an annual rolling action plan. The 2019-20 action plan was endorsed at the SEND Governance Board in September 2019 and delivery of the plan has now commenced.

5. OFSTED/CQC LOCAL AREA SEND INSPECTION

- 5.1 As reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board in May 2019, it was anticipated that the Ofsted/CQC SEND Local Area inspection would take place within this calendar year. The inspection was announced on Monday 9th September and took place between 16th and 20th September. The inspection provided a real opportunity to evidence the local area's hard work and our shared commitment to improving our services and support for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

- 5.2 The inspection focused on three key areas:

- 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?

- 5.3 During the inspection week, inspectors from Ofsted and CQC held a series of meetings and focus groups, which included staff from the Council and Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group. In addition, there was broad representation from partners, providers and families across the local area at the focus groups, which covered 16 areas:

- Early years
- Identification of SEND and early intervention
- Vulnerable groups with SEND
- Support for children with disabilities and transition to adulthood
- Outcomes and impact of local area improvements on raising standards
- Assessment and meeting needs
- Universal family nursing
- School nursing

- Health visiting
- SEN panel arrangements
- Joint commissioning
- Social participation
- Community nursing
- Therapies
- Multi-disciplinary diagnostic pathways in health
- Social emotional and mental health

5.4 Inspectors also visited a number of schools and settings during the week. The visits included meetings with leaders and governors, parent/carers and also children and young people. Inspectors also had an opportunity to review individual files for children and young people.

5.5 A closed session took place with a group of parent carers, which provided an opportunity for direct contact between parent carers and the inspectors. In addition, a separate meeting took place with a group of children and young people who were able to provide their views about Bromley to help inspectors understand about their lived experience.

5.6 Through the self-evaluation of the local area, we were able to provide inspectors with areas of strengths, together with the focus for improvements. The strategy and action plan reflect our commitment for improvement.

5.7 The inspection report has been finalised, however due to the general election, cannot now be published due to the pre-election period. The report will be published after the general election and until this time, we are unable to provide any details of the findings.

6. KEY AREAS OF PROGRESS

6.1 During the inspection week, Bromley had the opportunity to demonstrate what we have achieved, together with our areas for improvement.

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

- The SEND Training Collaborative has been established, with a programme of training and support now being delivered across the local area
- The Nurture Group Network has seen 19 schools working in partnership, with the aim of increasing the number of schools working towards the Nurture Mark and an increase in schools wanting to establish nurture provision
- The Bromley Graduated Approach Framework sets out guidance for schools and setting in meeting the needs of children and young people who have SEND
- Training for health visitors around Speech language and communication needs through the Healthy London Partnership

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

- The primary outreach team is in place to reduced the number of permanent exclusions
- 51 mainstream schools are now part of the School Wellbeing Service
- A new part-time KS4 Alternative Provision vocational offer is now in place

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

- Successfully bid for a new Special Free School for children who have social communication difficulties and associated challenges around mental health and behaviours
- Quality assurance process is in place to support increased oversight for children and young people placed at independent schools and those outside Bromley
- Reshaped our speech and language service for mainstream schools

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

- Implemented a new engagement framework to add clarity to the systems in place and the impact that the 'voice' our children and young people are having
- Bromley Parent Voice held their first award ceremony to celebrate effective practice
- Recruited a full time joint post across the Council and CCG to oversee and develop the Local Offer

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

- Implemented the EHC Online Portal from September 2019
- The multi-agency Autism Partnership Project has been established to drive improvements across the local area for children and young people who have ASD and their families
- SEND Matters is our monthly newsletter which
- Monthly SEND Matters Live events for parent carers, which focus on themes that they have identified
- Redesigned our statutory decision making process, with strengthened and more robust decisions
- Launched the SEND Network Champions, including Member champion
- Recruited a full time quality assurance lead to oversee improvements in working practices and EHC Plans
- 100% of Bromley GPs are now able to provide the 14+ learning disability health check

7. FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT

7.1 The self-evaluation clearly outlined areas for improvement, which are incorporated into the 2019-20 action plan. Within the actions agreed, we have identified 18 key areas that will be of the utmost priority.

- Strengthen and refine the the local SEND dataset to improve accountability
- Improve engagement with children and young people
- Improve the profile and content of the Local Offer
- Fully embed the SEND Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement Framework
- Embed the EHC online portal to improve transparency
- Improve the quality of our EHC plans converted from statements
- Embed our SEND network champions to promote effective SEND practice and build confidence across the professional and parent network.
- Increase the take up of Disability Access Fund by Early Years settings.
- Improve Transition for children preparing for adult life
- Consolidate overview and insight of special schools to a new single point of contact.
- Improve timeliness and quality of the EHC plans.
- Improve recording of the primary need for children and young people
- Continue the parent information sessions so that parents feel they can contribute meaningfully to their child's assessment
- Create additional local provision to meet the needs of children and young people
- Drive rapid improvements to training and development across the Autsim Partnership
- Embed increased and earlier access to appropriate emotional and mental health support
- Continue to focus on the attainment gaps for pupils who have SEND
- Reduce the number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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