

MEETING

CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

DATE AND TIME

THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 2021

AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ

**TO: MEMBERS OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE
(Quorum 3)**

Chairman: Councillor David Longstaff
Vice Chairman: Councillor Felix Byers

Pauline Coakley Webb
Val Duschinsky
Linda Freedman

Rohit Grover
Anne Hutton
Nagus Narenthira

Danny Rich
Julian Teare
Reuben Thompstone

Substitute Members

Saira Don
Arjun Mittra

Eva Greenspan
Ammar Naqvi

Kathy Levine
Stephen Sowerby

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is 15th November at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.

Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Service contact: Pakeezah Rahman 020 8359 6452
pakeezah.rahman@barnet.gov.uk

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454

ASSURANCE GROUP

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

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3.	Declarations of Members Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests	
4.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (if Any)	
5.	Public Questions and Comments (if Any)	
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7.	Elective Home Education - TO FOLLOW	
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12.	Any other Item(s) that the Chairman decides are Urgent (if Any)	

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Decisions of the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee

13 September 2021

Members Present: -

Councillor David Longstaff (Chairman)
Councillor Felix Byers (Vice-Chairman)

AGENDA ITEM 1

Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb	Councillor Nagus Narenthira
Councillor Val Duschinsky	Councillor Danny Rich
Councillor Linda Freedman	Councillor Julian Teare
Councillor Rohit Grover	Councillor Reuben Thompstone
Councillor Anne Hutton	

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Corrections to the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2021:

Amendment to sentence under Item 7, para. 3: 'This policy aims to strengthen the link between the two.'

Amendment to sentence under Item 7, para. 5: 'Councillor Nagus Narenthira, duly seconded and moved the following motion.'

Amendment to sentence under Item 7, para. 9: 'Following the discussion on the proposed motion, Councillor Narenthira and the Committee agreed to the following amendment highlighted.'

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee held on 7 June 2021 be approved as a correct record subject to the amendments above.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

None.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

None.

6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

7. FAMILY SERVICES QUARTERLY UPDATE

Executive Director for Children's Services, Chris Munday, presented the report.

It was noted that although services had performed well during the pandemic and received a positive outcome from the recent Ofsted focussed visit, there were challenges such as the influx of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in Barnet. Despite such challenges, the Senior Leadership Team continued to improve services to meet children's needs. Members queried what strategies were in place for effective case recording and 'All About Me' plans.

Social Workers continue to maintain good relationships with children and were able to action appropriate support for their needs. Staff workshops have been held to address barriers and ways to improve recordings. There are ongoing projects in relation to improving the systems to promote better recording.

The Director of Children Social Care, Brigitte Jordaan, informed that Life Story work was different to the child's Care Plan. The new format, 'All About Me' assessment and plan was introduced to ensure it was the plan was written from the child's perspective and not that of the social worker. Better ways to store and record life story work is being explored.

The service achieved a break-even budget but to minimise the risk of future overspends, as a result of the pandemic, small reserves have had to be built.

Members raised a question as to the number of children being trafficked and who may be categorised as UASC and whether it had an impact on services. It's not always possible to ascertain an accurate picture on trafficked children who were either in the UK or UASC, as children do not disclose the details of their journey to the UK and it is not possible to report on the details due to its sensitive nature. Where evidence of trafficking is found during assessments, the young person would be referred to the correct organisations.

Members questioned whether a change to the definition of trafficking was needed as children in Barnet, affiliated to gangs, may be subjected to trafficking. It was noted that this area of concern is complex and Family Services has had some success in partnership with the police in disrupting trafficking activity into Barnet

Some data and a report Family Services' approach in relation to children being trafficked would be presented at the next Committee. Members also requested an index of the abbreviations used in reports.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman congratulated the Family Services division on the outcome of the Ofsted Focussed Visit and thanked all the staff in Children's Services for all their hard work.

RESOLVED:

- **That Committee notes and provides comments on the performance information summarised in the report and provided in Appendix 1.**

- **That Committee notes the outcome of the Ofsted Focussed visit and provides comments on the findings published in the letter provided in Appendix 2.**
- **That Committee approves a further recommendation to refer the Ofsted letter on their focused visit to the London Borough of Barnet Family Services to full Council to consider and comment in their role as corporate parents to the Borough's Looked After Children.**

8. FAMILY FRIENDLY UPDATE

In refence to family friendly objectives, the Executive Director for Children's Services recommended the commissioning of the Youth Perception Survey and that the Council stop taking part in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme, as it had not generated the improvements required in Barnet.

Members referred to universal credit claims and growing unemployment. Areas of concerns would continue to be addressed by Officers and to support families with benefits whilst driving the Employment Strategy which would alleviate some issues. Meetings with London Councils were held regularly to address key issues such as poverty and universal credit to ensure best practice.

Members commended the results of the Youth Perception Survey that showed increased improvements in services, which was a result of hard work and positive engagement. Members also commended all staff and Head Teachers in schools for their outstanding work.

With the increasing need for mental wellbeing support in children and young people in schools and the community and the concerns arising from the recent child suicides in Barnet, additional funding and resources have been placed into clinical services and organisations like KOOTH. As communities and schools reopen and children reconnect with trusted adults, referrals into Family Services has significantly increased. Detailed work is being completed to understand and respond to these pressures on the system.

Suitable accommodation was in place for Care Leavers. The Director of Children Social Care highlighted that cross partnership working will hopefully lead to the successfully acquisition of an additional 30 housing units by Barnet Homes by the end of year for Care Leavers.

Members requested that unemployment figures and data on those who were moving to zero hours contracts be made available at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- **That Committee notes the report.**
- **That Committee agrees that Council commissions the independent Youth Perception Survey to be undertaken in November 2021.**
- **That Committee agrees for the Council to stop taking part in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme.**

9. VOICE OF THE CHILD REPORT

The report provided an update on the work being done to support children and young people to have a strong voice on issues on climate change and mental health which they have highlighted as their priorities.

Members requested for a visual plan to show how all youth forums such as Youth Parliament, Youth Assembly and London Youth Assembly were linked together and how young people progressed from one to another.

RESOLVED:

- **That Committee notes the impact of the campaigns of the UK Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassadors.**
- **That Committee notes the resilience that young people have shown to adapt to changes with programmes and opportunities by continuing engaging in forums, consultations, coproduction, and engagement activities.**
- **That Committee notes and considers the issues highlighted in 8.2 in wider policy decisions.**

10. ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY PANEL - TO FOLLOW

The Director of Children Social Care highlighted that the annual report comprised of several updates of the work achieved throughout the year.

Members pointed out the high number of foster carers who were over the age of 65. It was noted that there was a shortage of foster carers nationally and older foster carers had a lot of experience, however the priority for Corporate Parenting is to consistently recruit more carers for our children.

The number of care leavers who were UASC, continue to be supported by the Council until they turn 25 or all immigration claims have been fully exhausted and they are set to be deported. An average UASC claim could take up to two and half years. UASCs and Care leavers seeking asylum are able access education and some training but not employment whilst their claim is being processed. They have no access to benefits.

Planned destinations in relation to young people would be fed back at a future meeting.

Adopt London North was beneficial to the children, due to their expertise in family finding and their pan London approach enabled them to commission special guardianship support efficiently during the pandemic, which supported care arrangements that were under considerable strain during the lockdowns.

Reversal of plans for adoption have resulted from delays in court proceedings, but in all cases the changed were in the best interest of the child as the plans changed to permanent placement with their foster carers or returning to their parents where personal circumstances had improved.

Members suggested adding page numbers to the appendices of the annual report for easy navigation.

11. THERAPIES

RESOLVED:

- That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee notes the award of a two-year contract (1st September 2021-31st August 2023) with Whittington Health NHS Trust for the provision of Children's Integrated Therapies.

- Total cost of a two-year contract is £6,611,024. The Local Authority's contribution is £1,167,810 through DSG and BELS core funding.

12. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:


That Committee notes the Forward Work Programme 2021-2022.

13. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (IF ANY)

None.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm

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	<p align="center">Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p align="center">18th November 2021</p>
<p align="center">Title</p>	<p>Special Educational Places Plan</p>
<p align="center">Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff</p>
<p align="center">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="center">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="center">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Key</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p align="center">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix – Barnet Special Educational Places Plan – Consultation Document</p>
<p align="center">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Chris Munday, Executive Director, Children’s Services Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Ian Harrison, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Barnet Education and Learning Service Ian.J.Harrison@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7943</p>

Summary

The report provides an update on specialist provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and sets out a draft plan (Barnet Special Educational Places Plan – Consultation Document) to ensure sufficiency of SEND provision in Barnet over the next three years.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee approves the Barnet Special Educational Places Plan Consultation Document, which sets out proposals for additional provision of specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and the proposed use of the Special Places Fund, and that the committee authorises the Executive Director for Children's Services to carry out consultation on the draft plan.
2. That the committee authorises the Executive Director for Children's Services, following consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and in the light of the responses to the public consultation, to finalise the Special Educational Places Plan and proposals for use of the remaining Special Places Fund allocation.

1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 In March 2019, the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee received a report on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy, including initial proposals for increasing the provision of specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and the proposed use of the Special Places Fund. It authorised the Executive Director for Children's Services to finalise the Special Educational Places Plan and proposals for use of the remaining Special Places Fund allocation following consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and in the light of the responses to the public consultation.
- 1.2 Subsequently, following the public consultation, in September 2019, the Executive Director for Children's Services approved the Special Places Plan and proposals for allocation of the Special Provision Fund.
- 1.3 In November 2020, the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee received a report on education strategies, which included a draft new SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021-24, which was approved for consultation. Following consultation the strategy was approved by the Executive Director for Children's Services. The strategy reported that the council had increased places at Oakleigh special school, Oak Lodge special school, Kisharon special school and Northway special school and was continuing to support the development of the Windmill Free school as part of the Oak Lodge Academy Trust so that more young people can have their needs met locally. The strategy included plans to update the SEND sufficiency and needs analysis to provide the necessary data to inform decision making about further provision to meet future needs. That would then lead to an updated Special Places Plan.
- 1.4 The report on education strategies in November 2020 also included an update on 'Planning for new school places update, which included details of the additional specialist SEND places created in the previous year and the plans for further additional places to be created in 2021.
- 1.5 The SEND sufficiency and needs analysis was completed earlier this year but has been reviewed and updated on a regular basis because of the significant increase in the number of children and young people with special educational needs who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The number rose from 2,402 in November 2019 to 2,682 in November 2020 to 2,899 in September 2021, an increase of nearly

21% in two years. Although a significant proportion of children and young people with an EHCP attend mainstream schools, the increase in numbers has been matched by a proportionate increase in the need for specialist places in Special Schools and in Additional Resource Provisions (specialist provisions attached to mainstream schools).

- 1.6 Officers have responded to the growing demand for specialist places by seeking creative solutions to the provision of specialist places, which have gone beyond the previous Specialist Places plan. This has included further expansion on the sites of special schools, additional ARP provision and the creation of special school satellites on mainstream school sites. Special schools and mainstream schools have been very supportive and flexible in enabling the increased provision to be developed, often at short notice.
- 1.7 The attached consultation document sets out the development of additional specialist provision that has occurred since 2019, forecasts of the additional places required over the next three years and proposals on how to meet that additional need.
- 1.8 The draft plan (consultation document) also sets out proposals for allocating the additional capital funding made available to the council by the Department for Education for the creation of additional specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 1.9 It is proposed to consult on the draft Special Educational Places Plan between 19th November and 17th December. Consultees will include the Barnet Parent-Carer Forum, schools, trade unions and delivery partners, including health and social care. Following consultation, and taking account of consultation responses, it is proposed that the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Chairman of this committee, be authorised to finalise the Special Educational Places Plan and the allocation of the Special Places Fund.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 The draft Special Educational Places Plan sets out proposals to increase the provision of specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs to enable the council to meet its statutory duty to secure sufficient specialist places to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

3. Alternative options considered and not recommended

- 3.1 The Council could decide not to have a formal plan and to deal with increasing need on a case by case basis. However, this is likely to lead to increased use of independent provision and does not meet the principles set out in the SEND Code of Practice, namely to involve children, their parents and young people in planning, commissioning and reviewing services, ensuring there is high quality provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEN and focusing on inclusive practice.

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 There will be consultation with stakeholders between 19th November and 17th December 2021 on the draft Special Educational Places Plan. The Executive Director

for Children's Services will approve the final plan and the allocation of the Special Places Fund in the light of the consultation.

5. Implications of decision

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The quality of the education offer in Barnet is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet a popular and desirable place with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools.

5.1.2 Excellent educational outcomes and ensuring children and young people are equipped to meet the needs of employers are key to delivering the Council's strategic objectives set out in its Corporate Plan, 'The Barnet Plan 2021 to 2025', based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life;
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure;
- where responsibility is shared, fairly;
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The Special Educational Places Plan will be delivered within existing revenue resources. The revenue costs of any additional places will be funded from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The revenue costs would be greater if the council has to rely on independent, non-maintained and out of borough places to meet the additional demand for specialist places instead of investing in extra provision locally. In relation to capital funding, the council's medium term financial strategy contains provision for new school places, including for those children and young people with SEND.

5.2.2 The capital funding identified in the council's medium term financial strategy will be partly funded by the government capital grant for the creation of specialist SEN places. This amounted to £3.0 million across 2018/19 to 2020/21 (£1.0m each year), which was then increased by a further £2.1 million in 2018 and has now been increased by a further £2.9 million, bringing the total to £8.031 million. This provides the council an opportunity to devise plans to meet an anticipated shortfall in the provision of local specialist places for children and young people with SEND.

5.2.3 The Appendix to the Consultation Document indicates planned spending of £8.031 million, including a contribution of £366,544 towards the cost of the proposed new special school annex. As the Special Provision Fund is capped at £8.031 million, any other capital costs will need to be met by the council. The council has already agreed to allocate £1.0 million towards the cost of the new Windmill school and £1.0 million towards the cost of re-providing an ARP at Claremont School when the school is rebuilt as part of the Brent Cross redevelopment.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Article 7 - Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships of the council's constitution states that the committee has responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools, education and safeguarding.
- 5.3.2 Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on parent/carers of children of compulsory school age to ensure that their children receive an efficient full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude and ability and any special educational needs they may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
- 5.3.3 The Council has duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 in relation to children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It also has duties under that Act to consult parents, young people and other stakeholders on strategies and policies setting out how it will fulfil its duties.
- 5.3.4 Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to secure efficient primary, secondary and further education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area. Section 13A requires local authorities to ensure that their functions are exercised with a view of promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training and promoting fulfilment of learning potential for children and young people in its area. Section 14 requires local authorities to secure sufficient schools and sufficient is defined by reference to number, character and equipment to provide appropriate education based on age, ability and aptitude, as well as ensuring diversity of provision. These duties are overarching duties and apply regardless of whether schools are maintained by the local authority or independent of local authority support.
- 5.3.5 Section 27 of the Children and Families Act requires local authorities to keep under review their educational, training and social care provision for children and young people with SEND to ensure it is sufficient to meet the educational, training and social care needs of the children and young people concerned. Subsection (3) requires the local authority to consult the following persons on such a review:
- Children and young people with SEND and their parents;
 - Maintained schools and nursery schools, academies, Post-16 institutions and non-maintained special schools in the local area;
 - Children's centres and early years providers;
 - Providers of education and youth offending teams that have responsibility for educating relevant children and young people.
- 5.3.6 The special provision capital fund has been provided by central Government for the purpose of improving the quality and range of provision for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years. The Department for Education Special Provision Capital Fund Guidance confirms that the fund is not ring-fenced and can be used to create new places at good or outstanding provision or improve or develop new facilities. The funds can be pooled with other funding or with other local authorities and can be spent on provision outside the local authority's area if this will help meet need for children

and young people within its area. The funds can be used for maintained schools, academies, early years institutions, Post-16 institutions and independent schools providing provision for children and young people with SEND. It is expected that the fund is used in a way that helps local authorities to manage the cost pressure on the high needs block of the designated schools' budget. The provision is not intended for higher education, provision for those aged over 25, creating additional places for pupils who do not have an EHC plan, reasonable adjustments to increase accessibility (this being the responsibility of the school), mobility equipment or maintenance works, revenue expenditure such as training or staff costs or maintenance works.

- 5.3.7 If prescribed alterations are proposed to be made to a maintained school, the school or Council will still follow the statutory process, including statutory consultation, on these changes. Guidance on this process is set out in the Department for Education guidance, 'Making significant changes ("prescribed alterations") to maintained schools – October 2018'. Academy schools will be expected to follow the process set out in their funding agreement. Guidance on this process is set out in the Department for Education guidance, 'Making significant changes to an open academy and closure by mutual agreement – November 2019'.

5.4 **Insight**

- 5.4.1 None

5.5 **Social Value**

- 5.5.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders

5.6 **Risk Management**

- 5.6.1 All pupil place planning is based on pupil projections and there is a risk that the projections are inaccurate. There is a risk that the needs of groups of children change over time. Future provision will be developed to promote flexibility to respond to changing needs.

5.7 **Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.7.1 The Council has a duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:
- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 5.7.2 The protected characteristics are:

- age

- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

5.7.3 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day-to-day business and to keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. School improvement monitoring, supporting and challenging arrangements ensure that the quality of education in Barnet is maintained and improved. Outcomes for all groups of children and young people are monitored including children with special educational needs and disabilities and disadvantaged children (those in receipt of free school meals and children looked after). Barnet's Children and Young People Plan and the Education Strategy 2021-2024 both have a strong focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged groups of children and young people.

5.7.4 The Plan is intended to improve outcomes and choice for children and young people with SEN and will therefore positively impact on children and young adults, working age adults who are parents and children and young people with disabilities.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 A disproportionate number of looked after children have special educational needs. Ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will thus be of clear benefit to significant numbers of looked after children.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 The report proposes consultation on the draft Special Educational Places Plan. Subject to this committee's approval, there will be consultation with stakeholders from 19th November until 17th December on the draft plan. The list of stakeholder groups and consultation methodology for each group is set out in the following table:

.Stakeholder Group	Method of consultation
Children and young people with SEN and disabilities	Focus groups (including BING – Barnet Inclusion Next Generation) Survey (via Engage Barnet)
Parent-carers of children with SEN and disabilities	Survey Virtual meeting (arranged with Barnet Parent Carer Forum)
Governing Bodies of all schools	Survey Virtual meeting

.Stakeholder Group	Method of consultation
Academy Trusts	Survey
Early Years providers, including Children's Centres	Survey
Chief Executive/Principals of local colleges	Survey
Youth Offending Team	Survey

5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1 None

6. Background papers

- 6.1 Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee, 13 March 2019 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy – update:
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s51547/SEND%20Strategy%20Update%20Report.pdf>
- 6.2 Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee, 30 November 2020 – report on Education Strategies:
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=697&MId=10095&Ver=4>

Appendix

Opportunity to have your say

Barnet Special Educational Places Plan

Consultation Document

19th November to 17th December 2021



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1. Introduction and context

In Barnet, we are committed to offering high quality special educational needs provision, including specialist places in the borough for our children and young people who have special educational needs and have an Education, Health and Care Plan. All local authorities have to regularly review and update their plans about their special educational needs provision. This is to ensure that there is enough of the right type of provision in borough and it keeps track with any changing needs.

This consultation seeks your views on the proposals about what type of special educational needs provision we need in Barnet in the future.

We have actively been working with parent carers, schools and other professionals, including Health and Social Care, to plan what provision we need in Barnet in the future. We use a number of different data sources, information from Placement panels and feedback from different groups and agencies to inform our decisions about the provision we need.

We currently have six special schools (Oakleigh, Mapledown, Northway, Oak Lodge, Kisharon and Oak Hill), two Pupil Referral Units (the Pavilion and Northgate School), and 14 Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs), (primary: Claremont, Child's Hill, Orion, Chalgrove, Broadfields (x2), Livingstone, Coppetts Wood, Summerside, Colindale; secondary: Whitefield, Hendon (x2), and JCoSS).

1.1 Development of specialist provision in 2020-21

In response to the growing need for specialist places, we developed a Specialist Places Plan in 2019, which was agreed after consultation and published in September 2019. It can be found here: [Barnet Local Offer :: Home / Site Searches / Search Results](#)

The main proposals agreed were:

- Continuing with existing plans to increase numbers of places at new and existing ARPs: Coppett's Wood, Chalgrove, Claremont (8 primary places) and Whitefield (10 places).
- Increasing numbers of Early Years places at Oakleigh special school (6 places).
- Exploring and securing provision for an additional 52 special school places (25 Primary; 27 Secondary) by September 2021 (with the majority of additional Secondary school places to be provided by Kisharon special school).

- Continuing to plan for and develop a new all-through special school to cater for the needs of children and young people with autism ('The Windmill').
- Continuing to explore and develop pathways for post-16, including Supported Internships and Apprenticeships (2 16-19 places and 28 19+ places by 2021).

As planned, additional places were provided between September 2019 and July 2021, as follows:

- Chalgrove ARP – 2 extra places in September 2020
- Claremont ARP – 2 extra places in September 2020 and 5 more in January 2021
- Whitefield ARP – 2 extra places in September (total 7)
- Oakleigh Special School – 8 extra places in September 2020 (3 early years places)
- Oakleigh annex at Queenswell Infant School – 8 full time places (16 nursery aged children attending - 8 in the morning; 8 in the afternoon) in September 2020
- Northway Special School – 12 extra places in September 2020
- Oak Lodge Special School – 5 extra places in September 2020
- Kisharon Special School – 13 extra places in September 2020
- Supported internships: one for 16–19 year-olds; 12 for 19 years+

1.2 Further developments of additional specialist provision in 2021

With the increased demand on special school and ARP places this year, we have created further additional places, including 'satellite' provision on mainstream school sites, which are run by some of the special schools. The recent developments that we have made this year are given below:

- Continuation of Oakleigh special school 'satellite' at Queenswell school – the maximum capacity is now 10 full-time places; currently 16 nursery aged children are attending (8 in the morning; 8 in the afternoon);
- Mapledown special school 'satellite' at Copthall school – 16 places (15 children currently attending);
- Claremont Hub – 5 places, 3 attending (these children who will transfer to Mapledown September 2022);
- Primary Pupil Referral Unit has moved from Oakhill to Woodridge School from September 2021 – 6 places (plus 2 home tuition), 8 on roll, with 6 attending the provision and 2 in receipt of home tuition;
- Oakbridge (Oak Lodge sixth-form provision) at Edgware - 13 places and 8 attending.
- Broadfields – new ARP for children with cognition and learning needs - with 24 places – all 24 places are currently occupied.

NB. Where provision is not yet at full capacity, places will be used for in-year transfers.

Plans are progressing for The Windmill School, a new Special Free School to be run by the Barnet Special Education Trust (which currently includes Oak Lodge Special Academy as its only school). This will provide 90 places all through from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 5 for children and young people with Autism. We are now anticipating that this will open and to start to take pupils in 2024 and will be at full capacity by 2028/29.

Barnet and Southgate College have increased their capacity for students with complex learning needs by opening up another class in their LDD provision within the college.

The number of supported internships have increased to 9 for young people aged 16 to 19 years, and 25 for 19 years +.

1.3 What are we consulting on?

We are seeking views on our proposals for additional specialist provision for children and young people in Barnet who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for their complex special educational needs.

This consultation document sets out the information that we are using to inform the consultation proposals. In particular, this document aims to:

- describe the gaps we have in our special educational needs provision in Barnet;
- present information on the type of provision we need in Barnet;
- show how we are proposing to use the capital allocation from the Special Provision Fund (this is a capital grant allocated to Barnet by the Department for Education to support the development of specialist provision for children and young people with special educational needs).

In this document we have set out:

- **how to have your say**
- **how we have developed our proposals**
- **proposals the council is considering**
- **feedback we want from you**
- **what happens after the consultation ends**

2. How to have your say

We want to know what you think of our proposals. Your views are important and will help us to provide children and young people in Barnet who have an EHCP for their special educational needs with the right type of high-quality provision and school places that they need to make progress and thrive. We want your input and feedback to help us to make the final decision about what sort of provision we have.

The consultation is open to all residents in Barnet, and we are keen to hear from parent carers of children and young people who have an EHCP, and other partners including schools and education settings, and statutory and voluntary services who support children and young people with special educational needs.

You can have your say by completing a questionnaire on line at engage.barnet.gov.uk or if you require documents in a different format, you can call 020 8359 7288

The consultation will run from 19th November to 17th December 2021

If you have any further questions or would like to know more about the consultation process, please:

- email your query to E&S.Support@Barnet.gov.uk or
- write to SEN Department, Floor 2, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London NW9 4EW and mark it 'SEND Places Consultation'.

3. How we have developed our proposals

3.1 The current position

Our proposals have been informed by looking at the number of young children we have in Barnet who have complex special educational needs and are likely to need to access specialist provision at some point in their education. This could be an Additional Resource Provision (ARP) or a Special school in Barnet. Additional Resource Provisions are specialist units for pupils with special educational needs that are on the site of a mainstream school.

In Barnet, we have an increasing number of children and young with special educational needs who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The following two tables show the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in different age groups over the last three years, and the total number of EHCPs as a proportion of the total number of children and young people in Barnet aged 0 – 25 years.

Table 1: Number of Children and Young People with an EHCP

Year	0-4	5-18	19+	Total
2019	91	2075	237	2403
2020	151	2229	302	2682
*2021	128	2391	380	2899

*The figures for 2021 are from September data, whereas the 2019 and 2020 data is from November of that year.

Table 2: Total number of EHCPs as proportion of Barnet’s children and young people population (0 – 25 years)

Year	Total of EHCPs as a proportion of the total population of children and young people (0 – 25 years)
2019	2.2%
2020	2.4%
2021	2.6%

The following table shows what type of provision children and young people in Barnet who have an Education, Health and Care Plan are attending and how many are attending the provisions.

Table 3: Numbers of children and young people with an EHCP by type of provision (September 2021)

Type of provision	0-4	5-18	19+
Early Years	15	1	0
ARP	15	226	0
Mainstream	50	1365	24
Special/AP	48	566	25
FE and apprenticeships	0	164	306
Other	0	69	25
Total	128	2391	380

Over the last two years, there has been a 7% increase in the number of children and young people in ARP provision. There has been an increase of 33% in the number of children and young people aged 5 to 18 years with an EHCP who are in mainstream school. The majority of these children will have their needs met in school and are in receipt of a range of support, including support and advice from specialist teams and outreach support from special schools. The other area of increase over the last two years has been the number of young people in Further Education and apprenticeships. This was predicted in 2019, with young people moving through education, with many more students aged 19+ years going on to Further Education.

The following table shows the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan according to their main area of special educational need. The SEND Code of Practice defines special educational needs in the four broad areas of need:

- Cognition and learning;
- Communication and interaction;
- Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH)

- Sensory and/or physical needs

(SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 years, paragraph’s 5.32 and 6.28).

Table 4: Numbers of children and young people by main type of need (September 2021)

Area of need	0-4	5-18	19+
Cognition and learning	76	1463	235
Communication and interaction	14	434	88
Social, emotional and mental health	1	333	51
Sensory	1	14	0
Other*	36	147	6
Total	128	2391	380

Other includes 155 pupils who are placed in specialist provision in independent/non-maintained schools or out of borough special schools.*

The following table gives the percentage of EHCPs further broken down into different types of special educational need for children and young people (0 – 25 years) in Barnet.

Table 5: Percentage of EHCPs by type of need (June 2021)

Area of need	Percentage of total number of EHCPs
Autism	35.5%
Speech, Language and Communication	17.6%
Social, emotional and mental health	14.0%
Moderate Learning Difficulties	8.9%
Physical Difficulties	6.1%
Specific Learning Difficulties	3.3%
Severe Learning Difficulties	2.0%
Profound and Multiple Difficulties	1.0%
Visual Impairment	1.4%
Hearing Impairment	1.7%
Multi-Sensory Impairment	0.4%
Other	8.1%

There has been little change in the percentage of EHCPs by type of need over the last three years, with Autism as the main area of special educational need, then speech, language and communication (this will include children who do not yet have a diagnosis of Autism). The third largest area of special educational need is social, emotional and mental health needs, and the fourth largest area is moderate learning difficulties.

Current provision of specialist places in Barnet

The following table gives the number of Barnet children and young people placed in the ARPs (September 2021).

Table 6: Current specialist places in ARPs

Additional Resourced Provision (ARP)	Type of need	2021 Places (Barnet pupils)
Livingstone Primary School and nursery	Autism Spectrum Disorder	27
Coppetts Wood Primary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	13
Chalgrove Primary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	13
Childs Hill Primary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	11
Claremont Primary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	12
Broadfields Primary School	Learning Difficulties	24
Broadfields Primary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	24
Orion Primary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	21
Colindale Primary School	Physical Disability	6
Summerside Primary School	Hearing Impaired	12
Hendon Secondary School	Hearing Impaired	4
Hendon Secondary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	19
*Whitefield Secondary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	8
London Academy Secondary School	Specific Learning Difficulties	2
JCoSS Secondary School	Autism Spectrum Disorder	45
Total		241

*The increased build-up of places at Whitefield ARP has been slower than originally anticipated. This is due to the impact of the Covid pandemic on the recruitment of specialist staff to the ARP. As staff are recruited, the numbers will increase by an expected 5 additional places every year from September 2022 up to capacity of 24 in 2026.

The following table gives the number of Barnet children and young people placed in Barnet special schools (September 2021):

Table 7: Current specialist places in Barnet special schools

Special schools (Maintained and Academies)	Type of need	2021 Places (Barnet pupils)
Oakleigh Special School (including Acorn nursery)	Severe Learning Difficulties/Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties/Autism Spectrum Disorder	155
Mapledown Special School	Severe Learning Difficulties/Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties/Autism Spectrum Disorder	94
Northway Special School	Moderate Learning Difficulties/ Autism Spectrum Disorder	120
Oak Lodge Special School	Moderate Learning Difficulties/ Autism Spectrum Disorder	195
Oak Hill Special School	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	27
Kisharon Special School	Severe Learning Difficulties/Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties/Autism Spectrum Disorder	48
Total		639

3.2 Forecasting the number of children and young people in Barnet with special educational needs with an Education, Health and Care Plan

In ensuring that we have sufficient specialist provision in Barnet, we use data to forecast the numbers of young people who are likely to have an EHCP in the future, and what type of provision they are likely to need. The majority of children and young people with special educational needs, including those who have an EHCP, will have their needs met in mainstream schools. Some children will have their needs best met in an ARP or a special school. The following table shows the forecast figures for 2022 to 2024 for the number of children and young people who will have an EHCP.

Table 8: Forecast number of Children and Young People with an EHCP 2022 - 2024

Year	0-4	Increase	5-18	increase	19+	increase	Total	Total increase
2021	128	-	2391	-	380	-	2899	-
2022	137	9	2555	164	475	95	3167	268
2023	147	10	2747	192	578	103	3472	305
2024	158	11	2943	196	719	141	3820	348

3.3 Forecasting the number and type of additional SEN specialist places we need

Given that there has been little change in the percentages of EHCPs by type of need over the last three years, it can be assumed that Autism will continue to be the area of greatest need, then speech, language and communication needs, then SEMH, with moderate learning difficulties being the fourth largest area of need. It is therefore assumed that about 36% of the additional places needed are for Autism and about 18% are for Speech, Language and Communication Needs, with the balance spread across the other types of need.

It is also assumed that a similar percentage of pupils with EHCPs will attend mainstream schools. The current percentage (excluding ARPs) is 51% for 0-4 year-olds and 57% for 5-18 year-olds, which would mean that the additional number of specialist places required in ARPs or special schools each year is expected to be:

Table 9: Forecast number of additional places needed in specialist provision in 2022-2024

Year	0-4 extra	aggregate	5-18 extra	aggregate
2022	4	4	71	71
2023	5	9	83	154
2024	5	14	84	238

3.4 Extra specialist places needed by age group and type of need

Early Years

There is a need for 14 additional places for children aged 0 to 4 years by 2024. Based on current needs, it is estimated that the distribution between different types of need will be:

- ASD/SLCN 7 places
- SLD 4 places
- PMLD 3 places

Primary and Secondary

As Table 7 indicates, there is a need for an additional 71 places for 5- to 18-year-olds in 2022, rising to 238 by 2024. The split between primary and secondary and the assumed additional places required by type of provision are shown in the following table:

Table 10 – Additional planned places for 5- to 18-year-olds each year

Type of provision	2022	2023	2024	Total
Primary ARP places	4	15	12	31
Secondary ARP places	13	16	16	45
Primary Special School places	21	15	19	55
Secondary Special School places	33	37	37	107
Total	71	83	84	238

Based on current needs, it is estimated that the distribution between different types of need will need to be as follows:

Table 11 - Additional planned places by 2024 for 5- to 18-year-olds each year by type of need (based on their main area of need)

Type of provision and type of need	ASD	SLCN	*SEMH	MLD	Other (inc SLD)	Total
Primary ARP places	17	4	-	10	-	31
Secondary ARP places	29	4	-	12	-	45
Primary Special School places	33	-	-	10	12	55
Secondary Special School places	61	-	-	22	24	107
Total	140	8	-	54	36	238

*In relation to SEMH, many children and young people with SEND who need to access specialist provision will have additional needs in relation to SEMH, but these will not be their main area of need.

Places for students aged 19 to 25

As Table 6 indicates, there is a need for an additional 95 places for students aged 19 to 25 in 2022, rising to 339 by 2024. :

Table 12 - Additional planned places for 5- to 18-year-olds each year

Type of provision	2022	2023	2024	Total
Mainstream FE	55	55	60	170
Specialist Learning Difficulties FE	20	20	25	65
Oak Bridge	3	4	5	12
Supported Internships	10	20	35	65
Other (including independent providers/colleges)	7	4	16	27
Total	95	103	141	339

Table 13 - Additional planned places by 2024 for 19 to 25-year-olds by type of need (based on their main area of need)

Type of provision and type of need	ASD	SLCN	*SEMH	MLD	Other (inc SLD)	Total
Mainstream FE	100	30	-	40	-	170
Specialist Learning Difficulties FE	32	6	-	5	22	65
Oak Bridge	12	-	-	-	-	12
Supported Internships	15	15	-	35	-	65
Other (including independent providers/colleges)	20	-	-	-	7	27
Total	179	51	-	80	29	339

*See comment under table 9.

4. Our proposals and key questions

In forecasting the future need we have in Barnet, we have assumed that like now, the majority of children and young people with special educational needs will have their needs met in a mainstream school (this is in line with the expectations of the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 years). We are also assuming that the ratios of children and young people with special educational needs in the different types of provision (Special schools, Additional Resource Provisions and mainstream schools) will stay roughly the same in the future.

We are also assuming that the different types of special education need will be met in similar proportions to now by the different types of provision (e.g. the same percentage of those

with autism will be met through ARPs and special schools as currently) and that the ratios between the different types of need will remain the same as now.

Connections with their local community are important for children and young people during the school years and beyond, promoting good preparation for adulthood and independent living. In developing more specialist provision in Barnet, we want children and young people needing specialist educational provision to be able to access it locally and not have to travel long distances to attend a school in another borough.

The proposals below have been informed by the views of parent carers and of schools. Parent carers have told us individually, through SEND forums, recent meetings with parents of children in our special schools and through the consultation on the SEND Strategy that the focus on specialist provision has been too weighted on children and young people with Autism. Autism continues to be the area of greatest need in Barnet, but we are seeing a growing number of children and young people with social communication needs and learning difficulties. We have listened to the views of parents and schools, as well as taking account of current and projected needs, in proposing to create a new primary ARP for children with Cognition and Learning, and we recognise the need to create further provision for children and young people with learning difficulties, and other needs but who do not necessarily have a diagnosis of Autism.

Proposals for meeting the need for extra specialist places in Barnet

Based on the above it is proposed to meet the needs by planning additional specialist places as follows:

0-4 year-olds

The 14 additional places for children 0–4 years will be provided at Oakleigh special school, at the annex at Queenswell Infant School.

0-19 year-olds

It is planned to create additional ARP and Special School places as follows;

Table 14 – Proposed expansion of ARP and Special School places 2022 to 2024

Type of provision	Proposed extra provision	2022	2023	2024	Total
Primary ARP places	4 extra places at Broadfields in 2022 for Cognition and Learning. New Primary ARP for Cognition and Learning needs – 12 places in 2023 rising to 24 in 2024 3 extra places at an existing ARP from 2023	4	15	12	31

Type of provision	Proposed extra provision	2022	2023	2024	Total
Secondary ARP places	New secondary ARP for Cognition and Learning needs with 8 places in 2022 rising to 16 in 2023 and 24 in 2024. Increase placements at Whitefield ARP by 5 places in 2022, a further 5 in 2023 and a further 5 in 2024 6 extra places at an existing ARP – 3 from 2023 and 3 from 2024	13	16	16	45
Primary Special School places	Expand Oakleigh by 8 places in 2022 and 5 in 2023. New special school annex with 13 extra places in 2022 and a further 10 in 2023. Expand Kisharon by 7 places in 2024. Windmill opens and provides 12 places in 2024.	21	15	19	55
Secondary Special School places	Expand Oak Lodge by 7 places in 2022 and 5 in 2023. New special school annex with 26 extra places in 2022 and a further 22 in 2023. Expand Kisharon by 10 places in 2023 and 12 places in 2024. Windmill opens and provides 20 places in 2024. 5 more places to find in 2024	33	37	37	107
Total		71	83	84	238

Key elements of the proposals include:

- Expansion of existing provision at Oakleigh and Oak Lodge special schools (or annexes developed in 2021) and at Kisharon special school
- Expansion of existing ARP at Broadfields and increased placements at Whitefield ARP
- Opening a new Primary ARP for Cognition and Learning needs – 12 places in 2023 rising to 24 in 2024
- Opening a new Secondary ARP for Cognition and Learning needs – 24 places by 2024
- Opening a new annex to an existing Special School with provision for pupils aged from 5 to 18 with complex special educational needs, including learning needs, Autism and associated social, emotional and mental health needs. This will be for 71 places, 39 places proposed to be available from September 2022.

19 to 25 year-olds

It is planned to create additional specialist places as follows;

- Expansion of Further Education mainstream places for 19 + years by 55 places in 2022, rising to 110 places in 2023 and 170 places in 2024.
- Expansion of the specialist Learning Difficulties provision at Barnet and Southgate College by an additional 20 places in 2022, rising to 40 places in 2023 and 65 places in 2024.
- Increase places at Oak Bridge (the sixth-form provision for Oak Lodge Special School), with an additional 3 places in 2022, rising to 4 places in 2023 and 5 places in 2024.
- Increase the number of supported internships by 10 in 2022, rising to 20 additional places in 2023 and a further 35 places in 2024.
- Continued use of places in existing independent provision/colleges.

Proposals for allocating the SEN Provision Fund

In 2017 the government announced the establishment of a one-off pot of capital investment funding, the Special Provision Fund, for local authorities to use to provide more specialist school places for children and young people with special educational needs with high levels of need.

Barnet's initial allocation was £3.0 million spread over three years from 2018 (£1.0 million each year). Further announcements by the Department for Education in 2018 (£2.1 million) and 2020 (£2.9 million) resulted in an increased allocation amounting to a total of £8.0 million.

Following consultation on the council's SEND Strategy between November 2017 and January 2018, Barnet council published its plans for developing specialist provision and for the use of its Special Provision Fund allocation. The Specialist Places Plan was updated, following consultation in 2019.

The council has now reviewed its plans for allocating the Special Provision Fund to different projects in light of the increase in the fund from £5.1 million to £8.0 million and in the light of its needs analysis and Sufficiency Review.

The table in Appendix 1 sets out the planned investments from the 2020 plan and the actual expenditure incurred in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. It then shows the planned use of the Fund in 2021-22 and 2022-23. The total amounts to £8.0 million.

Additional capital funding may be required to fund the development of the proposed new special school annex and the proposed new primary and secondary school ARPs. As the Special Provision Fund is capped at £8.0 million, any other capital costs will need to be met by the council.

The council also intends to spend £1.0 million as a council contribution to the cost of DfE funded Windmill school. As part of the Brent Cross redevelopment, Claremont Primary School will be rebuilt, along with its ARP. The council has agreed to contribute £1.0 million to the cost of the re-provided ARP.

The key points in respect of the Special Provision Fund are:

- The updated allocation is £8,031,016.
- The 2021-22 and 22-23 figures are initial estimates.
- Additional capital costs will need to be met by the council.

5. What happens after the consultation ends?

The consultation ends on 17th December 2021. The council will then review the public feedback alongside the feedback from partner organisations.

The decision about plans for the development of the additional specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and who have an Education, Health and Care Plan together with how we are going to use the Special Provision Fund will be made in the light of the consultation by the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee.


The final decision will be published on the London Borough of Barnet's website at www.barnet.gov.uk and the Local Offer <https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/>

Appendix 1

Special Provision Plan: Proposals for allocating the SEN Provision Fund to projects

School	Category	2018/19 use of the Special Provision fund	2019/20 use of the Special Provision fund	2020/21 use of the Special Provision fund	2021/22 Planned use of the Special Provision fund	22/23 Planned use of the Special Provision fund
Coppetts Wood	Resourced Provision (ASC)	£62,361	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Chalgrove	Resourced Provision (ASC)	£776,855	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Whitefield Secondary Academy	Resourced provision (ASC)	£141,808	£1,650,037	£73,000	N/A	
Northway Special School	Special Provision (MLD)	N/A	N/A	£222,000	£14,000	
Queenswell Infant	Special Provision – satellite class for Oakleigh (SLD)	N/A	N/A	£702,135	0	
Oakleigh Special School (phase 1)	Special Provision (SLD)	N/A	£162,427	N/A	0	
Oakleigh Special School (phase 2)	Special Provision (SLD)	N/A	£4,698	N/A	0	
Oakleigh Special School (pool)	Special provision (SLD)	N/A	N/A	£16,000	£250,000	£1,476,000
Claremont Primary School	Resourced provision (ASD)	N/A	£159,833	£60,000	£36,000	
Northgate PRU	Pupil Referral Unit (SEMH)	N/A	N/A	£17,000	0	
Broadfields Primary Academy	Additional Resourced Provision (Cognition and Learning)	N/A	N/A	N/A	£1,092,800	
Copthall Secondary Academy	Special Provision – satellite class for Mapledown (SLD/PMLD)	N/A	N/A	N/A	£214,000	
Edgware Primary	Post 16 – Oak Bridge	N/A	N/A	N/A	£489,000	
Woodridge Primary	Primary Pupil Referral Unit	N/A	N/A	N/A	£11,000	
New special School annex	Special Provision (MLD/SLD/ASD)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£404,760
Totals		£981,024	£1,972,297	£1,090,135	£2,106,800	£1,880,760

Note: The 2021/22 and 2022/23 figures are initial estimates.

	<p align="center">Children Education and Safeguarding Committee 18 November 2020</p>
<p align="center">Title</p>	<p align="center">Business Planning 2022-26</p>
<p align="center">Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Committee- Cllr David Longstaff</p>
<p align="center">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="center">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="center">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Key</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p align="center">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A – Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Savings Proposals for Committee Appendix B – Fees & Charges</p>
<p align="center">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Chris Munday, Executive Director, Children and Young People Chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk Ben Thomas, Assistant Director, Family Services Ben.thomas@barnet.gov.uk</p>

<h3>Summary</h3>
<p>A Business Planning will be received by Policy and Resources Committee on 30 September 2021 outlining the council’s updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2025/26 and the future financial challenges facing the council.</p> <p>Theme Committees will consider their response to this challenge, by considering savings proposals to secure a balanced council budget (the same process as used in previous years).</p> <p>Work is ongoing to identify the impacts, both pandemic- and non-pandemic related, across the planning period. Given the high level of uncertainty in the MTFS period, particularly regarding 2022/23, 3 scenarios have been modelled. The central scenario estimates an overall budget gap of £16.2m, which may be reduced by £13.3m to £2.9m if proposed all savings are agreed.</p>

This report asks the Committee to agree to the revenue savings proposals attached and to note the service pressures identified, and also to approve changes to Fees and Charges.

The outcomes of all theme committee discussions will go forward as recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee in December 2021.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That Committee agree the revenue savings programme listed in Appendix A for recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee in December. Taking account of the equality impacts of such savings.**
- 2. That Committee note the risks associated with these savings proposals. These risks relate both to impact on services and residents and deliverability of savings.**
- 3. That Committee agree the changes to fees and charges as set out in Appendix B for referral to Policy and Resources Committee.**

4. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

4.1 Executive Summary

4.1.1 This report is required as part of the council's annual business planning process, to discuss and approve priorities for the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee for 2022/23 and also 2023/24 to 2025/26.

4.1.2 The Committee's approval is requested for:

- Savings proposals within its terms of reference so they can then be recommended to Policy and Resources (P&R) Committee to set a balanced budget for 2022/23.
- Proposed changes to Fees and Charges within Committee's authority for 2022/23 that require approval and recommendation to P&R Committee.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 Background to 2022/23 Business Planning

5.1.1 The council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget for the coming financial year and uses the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to estimate the budget position for the following three years. Savings proposals for future years are identified and proposed to Committee. Savings proposals for all years are proposed through Theme committees, recommended to P&R Committee, and so on to Full Council in March to be approved.

5.1.2 Between 2010/11 to 2020/21, the council successfully identified savings averaging £17m per year.

5.2 Approach to MTFS 2022-26

5.2.1 In June 2021, P&R Committee were presented with an update on the impacts of Covid and an introduction to the 2022/23 to 2025/26 MTFS process. This set out that recurrent resources were not expected to grow significantly from 2021/22 to 2022/23. Service areas were therefore asked to prepare budgets for 2022/23 within a nominal 'cash limit', set at the level of the budget in 2021/22.

5.2.2 A more detailed update on the MTFS was presented to September P&R committee which highlighted the level of uncertainty being faced in the short term. This uncertainty is being driven by 3 factors – the level of service pressures, and whether they are short term or of longer duration; the level of government grant funding to be received; and whether there will be scope for a social care precept (SCP) in 2022/23.

5.2.3 Considering these variables highlighted that each of them could have considerable impact (a 2% SCP would yield c£4m; service pressures were initially estimated at £15m; and changes government grant, estimated at a loss of £2m per year, could be a loss or a gain of twice that). Accordingly, 3 scenarios were presented to September P&R committee, illustrating how these variables could lead to quite different outcomes, but also emphasising that the central scenario or base case was regarded as more likely and that it was preferred as a basis of planning. This central scenario is summarised below.

5.2.4 It is anticipated that a combination of government announcements, local political decisions, and the further development of service financial plans will reduce the overall level of uncertainty substantially by March 2022 when the budget is set.

5.3 MTFS September Summary – 'Base case'

5.3.1 As at September, the estimated budget gap between 2022/23 to 2025/26 is £73.386m. Taking this revised budget gap with proposed savings to date, the shortfall across the MTFS period is reduced to £54.897m. Considering 2022/23 in isolation, the estimated funding gap is £16.233m, which reduces to £2.895m if all proposed savings are retained and approved.

2021/22		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£m	<u>MTFS Summary - Base Scenario</u>	£m	£m	£m	£m
333.101	Expenditure	342.102	369.561	394.431	418.983
(333.101)	Resources	(325.869)	(329.121)	(337.888)	(345.597)
(0.000)	Cumulative (Surplus)/Shortfall to Balanced Budget	16.233	40.441	56.543	73.386
0.000	Funding from Earmarked Reserves (under review)	(0.519)	0.000	0.000	0.000

(0.000)	Net Cumulative (Surplus)/Shortfall to Balanced Budget	15.714	40.441	56.543	73.386
	Savings / Efficiencies Proposed to Date	(12.819)	(14.867)	(18.106)	(18.489)
0.000	Gap to Balanced Budget excl undertain items	2.895	25.574	38.437	54.897

5.4 Committee Context

5.4.1 The vision for this committee, which is set out in the Children and Young People's Plan, is to make Barnet the most family friendly borough in London where children, young people, and their families are safe and healthy, are informed and responsible, and feel listened to. At the core of this is a resilience-based model of practice which involves identifying issues early and supporting families to build their resilience, underpinned by high quality social work.

5.4.2 Our safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable children and young people will be effective and robust, with greater interface between services to provide a cohesive approach. We strive for schools in Barnet to remain among the best in the country, with enough early years and school places for all and children achieving the best they can, with attainment and progress of pupils in the top 10% nationally, and the progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils accelerated.

5.4.3 The challenging financial climate in which the Service is operating requires a focus on ensuring that resources are deployed effectively to deliver the key outcomes and priorities for the Committee. It is critical that any savings that are proposed are not going to impact on the improvement to the quality of children's services, which could undermine the progress that has been and continues to be made.

5.4.4 Current and future trends:

- The number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans increased from 2,682 in 2019 to 2,931 in 2020-21 to a forecast figure of 3,268 in 2021-22, a 22% increase in 2 years.
- There has been an increase in demand for lower-level support for young people and their families around anxiety due to the lockdown and subsequent return to the classroom. There has been an increase in Early Help assessments and mental health and wellbeing services due with a 25% increase in anxiety related presentation to Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS) and KOOOTH online counselling service for young people.
- There has also been an increase in referrals, particularly from education, as well as an increase in the number of Strategy Discussions and child protection enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
- We continue to receive referrals of unaccompanied asylum seeking children from the hotels run by the Home Office and are anticipating that this will continue. There is also a resulting increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum children care leavers in Barnet.

5.5 In year (2021/22) Management

5.5.1 This year has continued to be a challenging year due to COVID which has presented a unique set of challenges both operationally and financially. The full impact of COVID is yet to be known or seen completely within the system.

5.5.2 As such, the budget forecast projections as at the end of September are based on information that is currently available and shows a budget pressure of £2.696m.

5.5.3 However, almost all of this (£2.693m) relates to anticipated one off costs associated with COVID 19.

5.5.4 The COVID costs are anticipated to be non-recurrent costs. Of the £2.693m forecast as at the end of September, the main costs are detailed below:

Service Area	COVID-19 Impact	Commentary
	£'000	
Children's Social Care	500	Increased use of Section 17 payments to support family's needs
	498	Additional Staff COVID cover
	234	Therapies (OT, physio, SLT)
	131	Onwards and Upwards client subsistence
	60	Various misc others
Children's Social Care	1,423	
Early Intervention & Prevention and Education & Skills	460	Mental Health support teams to be rolled out across all schools. Represents estimated 21/22 cost- £1.040m to be spent in future years
	142	Young people support on pathway to employment. Represents estimated 21/22 cost- £858k to be spent in future years
	500	High quality education: Language development, social, emotional, and mental health needs, narrowing the gap
	168	Various misc others
EIP & Education and Skills	1,270	
Children's and Family Services Total	2,693	

2.5.5 Business as usual is balancing across Children’s and Family Services. However, within this there are various pressures being managed within the service. This includes pressures within placements relating to Independent Fostering Agencies, External Family Assessments and External Semi-Independent. These pressures remain challenging to deal with but are being managed actively across the service.

5.6 Children Education and Safeguarding Committee Pressures and Savings

5.6.1 A list of pressures within the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee’s area of responsibility can be seen in Appendix A. The table below provides a summary of the pressures.

TABLE SHOWING SUMMARY OF PRESSURES

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£	£	£	£
Placements - demographics and complexity. There has been an increase in demand for family assessments and remand services and an increase in cost of Independent Fostering Agencies.	757,796	750,000	750,000	750,000
Leaving Care- there are increasing numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children care leavers in Barnet. This will bring a saving in later years as this group of care leavers leaves the system.	115,000	125,000	(70,000)	(70,000)
The Troubled Families reserve, which delivered a saving in previous years, has been fully used.	242,650	207,350	0	0
Agency staffing pressures within the Intervention and Planning and Duty and Assessment Teams.	373,016	59,548	60,548	61,548
A range of other, smaller, service pressures. The value shown is net of savings where possible. Future years pressures will be reviewed as part of budget preparation each year.	156,097	241,860	323,375	209,978
Home to school transport cost pressure as a result of rising Education and Health Care Plans	92,350	507,650	0	0
TOTAL	1,736,909	641,387	463,565	201,526

5.6.2 To help address the budget gap between 2022/23 and 2025/26, indicative savings proposals have been identified for the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee. The committee are being asked to approve the savings programme for the next four years.

5.6.3 The full range of savings and/or income generation proposals within the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee’s area of responsibility can be seen in Appendix A. The table below provides a summary of these savings and income generation proposals.

5.6.4 It should be noted that future year (22/23 onwards) values are indicative at this stage and will be confirmed in the paper to this committee each year.

5.6.5 Where possible, the approach has been to propose savings through bringing in additional income and through back-office savings rather than reducing services, which could impact on the improvement to the quality of children's services and undermine the progress that has been made.

TABLE SHOWING SUMMARY OF SAVINGS

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Savings	£	£	£	£
Inflationary increases to third party contracts are built into the budget. These savings would be achieved by improving contract management and negotiating better rates across contracts including: secure accommodation, fostering support, and short breaks	(334,000)	0	0	0
Remodelling of placements to reduce number of children in high cost placements. Range of measures from increased recruitment of internal foster carers and supported lodgings hosts, developing in-house therapeutic provision to expanding lower cost internal semi-independent options	(392,055)	0	0	0
Savings delivered through reducing the number of agency workers by increasing Newly Qualified Social Work capacity for one year alongside a targeted international recruitment campaign to increase the number of permanent social work staff	(226,784)	0	0	0
Savings on the provision of Passenger Assistants for SEN transport through closer alignment with the SEN team and management efficiencies. This is the full year effect for a saving delivered in 21/22	(20,000)	0	0	0
Due to more than 0.07% of the child population in Barnet being Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, an additional 25% enhanced rate per child is expected from the Home Office	(410,354)	0	0	0
There was an initial investment of £265,000 into additional staffing in the Barnet Education and Learning Service to support children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities to manage a peak in numbers. This would be the end of that investment.	0	(265,000)	0	0
Managing the demand on the Section 17 budget by reducing the number of families facing homelessness	(100,000)	0	0	0
In line with the Public Law Outline review, increase the use of pre-proceedings to address recognised needs and reduce the number of families going to court, which will reduce costs	0	(100,000)	0	0
Income Generation				
Additional income through the new Parenting Hub	0	(150,000)		
Remodelling of contact centre to create staffing savings and increase income generation by selling to other local authorities			(150,000)	(200,000)
Following Covid impact on income, move to full cost recovery for Traded Services, DofE and Finchley Youth Theatre in 23/24 and Newstead and Greentops in 24/25, as well as identifying other traded services opportunities.	0	(124,000)	(311,000)	0
TOTAL SAVINGS	(1,483,193)	(639,000)	(461,000)	(200,000)

5.7 Fees & Charges

5.7.1 Revised financial regulations approved in October 2021 require all changes to fees and charges to be included in the budget proposals submitted by theme Committees or the relevant committee to the Policy & Resources Committee. The budget recommended by Policy and Resources Committee to Full Council will incorporate the latest projection of income from fees and charges. Full Council will approve all fees and charges as part of the budget report in March 2021.

5.7.1 From April 2021, the following changes to fees and charges are proposed, these are listed in more detail in Appendix B:

- Increase in Greentops afterschool provision from £7 to £10 per session. This includes collection from school, a snack and provision through to 5.30pm. Other similar provisions charge £12-15. This has not been increased since 2018.

5.8 Recovery Plan

5.8.1 Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions by the government in July, CMT agreed to close down the Recovery Planning Programme. This was a result of most unlocking activities being completed and those still ongoing being reported on through other channels. In Children's and Family Services any ongoing impact of the pandemic is monitored through twice weekly SMT meetings.

5.8.2 Family Services and BELS will continue to focus on:

- Monitoring contacts into the MASH- levels are higher than pre pandemic although are now beginning to stabilise and we continue to work closely with schools and other partners to monitor and understand what is driving changes in demand.
- Offering a blend of virtual and in person approaches where this adds value to our work with children, young people and their families.
- Delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme to vulnerable children and young people.
- Monitoring school attendance-following a successful return to school in the summer term attendance dropped in the first two weeks the Autumn term due to a spike in infections and is now increasing again with 94% secondary attendance and 95% primary.
- Delivering the Education Renaissance Programme.
- Supporting Public Health to implement vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds.
- Working with the NCL CCG and The Whittington NHS Trust on the recovery of the therapies service.
- Preparation for SEND Youth Offending Team inspections.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Local Government continues to face significant reductions in funding and increased demand for services, as set out in the above context. These challenges require longer term, robust financial and strategic planning and the recommendations in this report support this.
- 6.2 By law, the council is required to set a balanced budget. These proposals are the best way of doing that by meeting financial requirement and delivering outcomes and ambitions for Barnet.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 7.1 The alternative option is not to approve the MTFS. This, however, is not considered to be good practice and may expose the council to the risk of not achieving the savings targets or being able to set a balanced budget. There is a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget and submit budget returns to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

8. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 8.1 If the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee approves Recommendation 1 made by this report, then the savings proposals will be referred to Policy and Resources Committee on 8th December 2020 as part of the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Public consultation on the MTFS will commence in December.

9. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

9.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 9.1.1 This report supports the council's corporate priorities as expressed through the Corporate Plan for 2019-24 which sets out our vision and strategy for the next 5 years. This includes the **outcomes** we want to achieve for the borough, the **priorities** we will focus limited resources on, and our **approach** for how we will deliver this.

- 9.1.2 Our 3 outcomes for the borough focus on place, people and communities:

- a pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in
- our residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected
- safe and strong communities where people get along well

- 9.1.3 The approach for delivering on this is underpinned by four strands; ensuring residents get a fair deal, maximising on opportunities, sharing responsibilities with the community and partners, and working effectively and efficiently.

9.1.4 The 5-year strategic priorities for this committee can be seen in appendix A, with the 19/20 delivery plan of these in Appendix B.

9.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

9.2.1 The Children Education and Safeguarding Committee savings programme will enable the council to meet its savings target as set out in the MTFs. These budgets will be formally agreed each year, and individual proposals will be subject to appropriate consultation and equality impact assessments where necessary. For this reason, the proposals are subject to change.

9.3 Social Value

9.3.1 None applicable to this report, however the council must take into account the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 to try to maximise the social and local economic value it derives from its procurement spend. The Barnet living wage is an example of where the council has considered its social value powers.

9.4 Legal and Constitutional References

9.4.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that: “without prejudice to section 111, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs”. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, relates to the subsidiary powers of local authorities.

9.4.2 Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires billing authorities to calculate their council tax requirements in accordance with the prescribed requirements of that section. This requires consideration of the authority’s estimated revenue expenditure for the year in order to perform its functions, allowances for contingencies in accordance with proper practices, financial reserves and amounts required to be transferred from general fund to collection fund.

9.4.3 Local authorities owe a fiduciary duty to council tax payers, which means it must consider the prudent use of resources, including control of expenditure, financial prudence in the short and long term, the need to strike a fair balance between the interests of council tax payers and ratepayers and the community’s interest in adequate and efficient services and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers.

9.4.4 These savings proposals are to be referred to Policy and Resources Committee. They will then be subject to consultation and a cumulative equality impact assessment before being referred on to Council so that Council may set the Council Tax, being mindful of any equality impacts and consultation responses.

- 9.4.5 The Council's Constitution (Article 7, Article 7 – Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) sets out the responsibilities of all council Committees. The responsibilities of the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee can be found here: <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s47983/08Article7CommitteesForumsWorkingGroupsandPartnerships.doc.pdf>. Responsibilities include:
- 1) To submit to the Policy and Resources Committee proposals relating to the Committee's budget for the following year in accordance with the budget timetable.
 - 2) To make recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee on issues relating to the budget for the Committee, including virements or underspends and overspends on the budget. No decisions which result in amendments to the agreed budget may be made by the Committee unless and until the amendment has been agreed by Policy and Resources Committee.
 - 3) To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.
- 9.4.6 The council's Financial Regulations can be found at: <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s46515/17FinancialRegulations.doc.pdf>
- 9.4.7 In the Financial Regulations fees and charges should be included in the budget proposals and submitted to Policy and Resources Committee. They will be considered by Council subject to public consultation. .
- 9.4.8 Some of the proposals relate to savings resulting from operational decisions being made in a different way and are therefore estimated savings. The saving is therefore an indicative saving and its deliverability will be dependent on a number of factors. As part of the budget setting process, Policy and Resources Committee will consider the need for an appropriate contingency to cover any savings that are indicative and may not be met due to operational decisions. Some of the proposals in the MTFS relate to proposals that are at a very early stage. These proposals will be subject to further business planning and decision making to test whether they can be delivered and what the impact of such a proposal will be. These proposals will be considered in further detail during future business planning reports.
- 9.4.9 All proposals emerging from the business planning process will need to be considered in terms of the council's legal powers and obligations (including, specifically, the public-sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010).

9.5 Risk Management

- 9.5.1 The Council has taken steps to improve its risk management processes by integrating the management of financial and other risks facing the organisation. The allocation of an amount to contingency is a step to mitigate the pressures that had yet to be quantified during the budget setting process.

9.5.2 The allocation of budgets from contingency seeks to mitigate financial risks which have materialised.

9.6 Equalities and Diversity

9.6.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the council.

9.6.2 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty require elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

9.6.3 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

9.6.4 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

9.6.5 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

9.6.6 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Tackle prejudice, and
- Promote understanding.

9.6.7 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race,
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil partnership

9.6.8 This is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.

9.6.9 Progress against the performance measures we use is published on our website at:

www.barnet.gov.uk/info/200041/equality_and_diversity/224/equality_and_diversity

9.6.10 Where there are changes to service delivery or changes to staff, these will impact on individuals in different ways. However, at each stage of the process, the council will conduct an equalities impact assessment (EIA) where appropriate to ensure that where **persons are** impacted, proper measures are considered to mitigate the effect as far as possible. Those affected by any changes resulting from any of the proposals will be engaged, as set out in Appendix C under 'Consultation'. Where necessary, proposals will not be implemented or agreed until members have fully considered the equality impacts and responses to any consultation.

9.6.11 The revenue savings sheet shown at Appendix A indicates that it is not anticipated that there will be a disproportionately adverse impact on a protected group from any of the proposals that requires mitigation.

9.6.12 All human resources implications will be managed in accordance with the Council's Managing Organisational Change policy, which supports the Council's Human Resources Strategy and meets statutory equalities duties and current employment legislation.

9.7 Corporate Parenting

9.7.1 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. The outcomes and priorities in the refreshed Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, reflect the council's commitment to the Corporate Parenting duty to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and the needs of children are considered in

everything that the council does. To this end, great attention has been paid to the needs of children in care and care leavers when approaching business planning, to ensure decisions are made through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do for their own child.

9.7.2 The Council, in setting its budget, has considered the Corporate Parenting Principles both in terms of savings and investment proposals. The Council proposals have sought to protect front-line social work and services to children in care and care leavers and in some cases, has invested in them.

9.8 Consultation and Engagement

9.8.1 As a matter of public law, the duty to consult with regards to proposals to vary, reduce or withdraw services will arise in four circumstances:

- where there is a statutory requirement in the relevant legislative framework
- where the practice has been to consult, or, where a policy document states the council will consult, then the council must comply with its own practice or policy
- exceptionally, where the matter is so important that there is a legitimate expectation of consultation
- Where consultation is required to complete an equalities impact assessment.

9.8.2 Regardless of whether the council has a duty to consult, if it chooses to consult, such consultation must be carried out fairly. In general, a consultation can only be considered as proper consultation if:

- comments are genuinely invited at the formative stage
- the consultation documents include sufficient reasons for the proposal to allow those being consulted to be properly informed and to give an informed response
- there is adequate time given to the consultees to consider the proposals
- there is a mechanism for feeding back the comments and those comments are considered by the decision-maker / decision-making body when making a final decision
- the degree of specificity with which, in fairness, the public authority should conduct its consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting
- where relevant and appropriate, the consultation is clear on the reasons why and extent to which alternatives and discarded options have been discarded. The more intrusive the decision, the more likely it is to attract a higher level of procedural fairness.

9.8.3 The council will perform a budget consultation during December 2019 through to January 2020. This consultation will cover any proposals to increase council tax together with seeking views on the council's budget overall.

9.8.4 In terms of service specific consultations, the council has a duty to consult with residents and service users in a number of different situations including proposals to significantly vary, reduce or withdraw services. Consultation is also

needed in other circumstances, for example to identify the impact of proposals or to assist with complying with the council's equality duties. Service specific consultations will take place where necessary in line with timescales for any changes to be implemented.

- 9.8.5 If when council sets the budget envelope some service specific consultations have not been completed then Council will allow a contingency so that decision makers may make alternative decisions should there be undesirable equalities impacts.

9.9 **Insight**

- 9.9.1 None in the context of this report

10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Agenda for Policy and Resources Committee on Thursday 30th September, 2021, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Council on Tuesday 20th October, 2020, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[022176 - BC2135 - BARNET Corporate plan 2021 - 2025 - FINAL \(1\).pdf](#)

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Saving reference	Service area responsible	Has this saving been agreed previously?	Description of saving/additional income	Consultation (how we are consulting on this proposal)	Impact on service delivery	Equalities Impact	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
							£	£	£	£
CES1	Family Services Management	This saving was previously agreed by the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee on 30th November 2020 as part of Business Planning for 21/22	Inflationary increases to third party contracts are built into the budget. These savings would be achieved by improving contract management and negotiating better rates across contracts including: secure accommodation, fostering support, and short breaks.	No service specific consultation required	This proposal increases the efficiency of third party contract spending. It is not expected to impact on service delivery	Initial analysis indicates that no staff and/or service user Equalities Impact Assessment is required because the proposal does not impact on service delivery or staff.	(334,000)	0	0	0
CES8	Family Services- Placements	This saving was previously agreed by the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee on 30th November 2020 as part of Business Planning for 21/22	Remodelling of placements to reduce number of children in high cost placements. Range of measures from increased recruitment of internal foster carers and supported lodgings hosts, developing in-house therapeutic provision to expanding lower cost internal semi-independent options.	This will not require formal consultation. Engagement is taking place with service users and staff where applicable to different strands and as part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy	The programme is shifting demand and having an impact on parts of our service delivery, such as increased provision of floating support, and changes from external providers to in-house provision of services. It is anticipated that changes will improve outcomes	Equality implications will be considered on a case by case basis and operational decisions will continue to be made in the best interests of children.	(392,055)	0	0	0
CES14	Family Services- Assessment, Intervention and Planning	This saving was previously agreed by the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee on 30th November 2020 as part of Business Planning for 21/22	Savings delivered through reducing the number of agency workers by increasing Newly Qualified Social Work capacity for one year alongside a targeted international recruitment campaign to increase the number of permanent social work staff	No service specific consultation required	There will be no negative impact on service delivery and potentially a positive impact due to more permanent staff	No equalities impact is anticipated as a result of this proposal	(226,784)	0	0	0
CES31	Barnet Education and Learning Service	This saving was previously agreed by the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee on 30th November 2020 as part of Business Planning for 21/22	Savings on the provision of Passenger Assistants for SEN transport through closer alignment with the SEN team and management efficiencies.	This change has already been delivered and this is the full year effect of this saving	Positive impact due to closer alignment with SEN service	No equalities impact as a result of this proposal	(20,000)	0	0	0
NEW SAVING CFS 001	Family Services- Placements	This is a new saving	Due to more than 0.07% of the child population in Barnet being Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, an additional 25% enhanced rate per child is expected from the Home Office	No service specific consultation required	There will be no impact on service delivery	No equalities impact as a result of this proposal	(410,354)	0	0	0
NEW SAVING CFS 002	Barnet Education and Learning Service	This is a new saving	There was an initial investment of £265,000 into additional staffing in the Barnet Education and Learning Service to support children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities to manage a peak in numbers. This would be the end of that investment.	Staff consultation will be undertaken if required	It is anticipated that there will be no impact on service delivery but this will be reviewed next year when the pattern of demand is clear	It is anticipated that there will be no equalities impact as a result of this proposal but this will be reviewed next year	0	(265,000)	0	0
NEW SAVING CFS 003	Family Services- Assessment, Intervention and Planning	This is a new saving	Managing the demand on the Section 17 budget by reducing the number of families facing homelessness	No service specific consultation required	Positive impact due to earlier intervention and reducing the number of families facing homelessness	No equalities impact as a result of this proposal	(100,000)	0	0	0
NEW SAVING CFS 004	Family Services- Assessment, Intervention and Planning	This is a new saving	In line with the Public Law Outline review, increase the use of pre-proceedings to address recognised needs and reduce the number of families going to court, which will reduce costs	No service specific consultation required	Positive impact due to earlier intervention and reduction in the number of families going to court	No equalities impact as a result of this proposal	0	(100,000)	0	0
Sub-Total							(1,483,193)	(365,000)	0	0
Income reference										
NEW INCOME CFS 001	Family Services- Early Help 0-19	This is a new saving	Additional income generated through the new Parenting Hub	No service specific consultation required	There will be no impact on service delivery	No equalities impact is anticipated as a result of this proposal	0	(150,000)		
NEW INCOME CFS 002	Family Services- Corporate Parenting	This is a new saving	Remodelling of contact centre to create staffing savings and increase income generation by selling to other local authorities	Service specific consultation will be undertaken if required.	Impact on service delivery through greater focus on income generation.	No equalities impact is anticipated as a result of this proposal			(150,000)	(200,000)
NEW INCOME CFS 003	Family Services- Early Help 0-19	Full cost recovery for Traded Services was agreed at CES in June 2019 with a Full Business Case https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g9466/Public%20reports%20pack%2006th-June-2018%2019.00%20Children%20Education%20Safeguarding%20Committee.pdf?T=10	Following Covid impact on income, move to full cost recovery for Traded Services, DoE and Finchley Youth Theatre in 23/24 and Newstead and Greentops in 24/25, as well as identifying other traded services income opportunities.	No service specific consultation required as there is no change in policy.	There will be no impact on service delivery.	No equalities impact is anticipated as a result of this proposal	0	(124,000)	(311,000)	0
Sub-Total							0	(274,000)	(461,000)	(200,000)
TOTAL SAVINGS							(1,483,193)	(639,000)	(461,000)	(200,000)

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No Change
 Changed
 or new

Department: Children's & Family Services
 Area: Children Centres

Reference/ Area	Fee/Charge Title	Area	Description	Unit of Measure	Charges 2021/22	Charges 2022/23	Change from prior year (actual)	Change from prior year (%)	Basis of charging (Statutory prescribed, Statutory discretionary, statutory costs recovery or Discretionary)	Additional detail for new charges / above inflation
Afterschool provision	Greentops afterschool provision			Per Child Per session	£7.00	£10.00	£3.00	42.86%	Discretionary service	Hasn't been increased since 2018 and most similar provisions charge £12-15

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**London Borough of Barnet
Children, Education and
Safeguarding Committee
Forward Work Plan
2021 - 2022**

Contact: Maria Lugangira 020 8359 2761, maria.lugangira@barnet.gov.uk

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Chief/Lead Officer(s)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
Monday 13 September 2021 [deadline for cleared reports Wednesday 1 September]			
Family Friendly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	Non-key
Annual Report from the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	Non-key
Voice of the Child Report	Annual Report on Barnet Youth Parliament and VOC.	Voice of the Child Coordinator Executive Director for Children and Young People	Non-key
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	Non-key
Thursday 18 November 2021 [deadline for cleared reports Tuesday 9 November]			
Business planning 2021-25	To agree the committee's business planning proposals for the medium term financial strategy period of 2021-25 and recommend the proposals to Policy and Resources Committee	Executive Director for Children and Young People	Key
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	Non-key
19 January 2022 [deadline for cleared reports Monday 10 June]			

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Chief/Lead Officer(s)	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
Barnet Safeguarding Children multi-agency Annual Report	To consider and comments on the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People Assistant Director, Education, Strategy and Partnerships	Non-key
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	Non-key
Annual Report on School Funding	To note and approve the recommendations.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	Non-key
21 March 2022 [deadline for cleared reports Thursday 10 March]			
Family Services Quarterly Update	The Committee to note the report.	Executive Director for Children and Young People	Non-key

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