

MEETING**BARNET CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD****DATE AND TIME****THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY, 2014****AT 2.00 PM****VENUE****HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG****Children's Trust Board Priorities****Ensuring the Safety of all Barnet's Children****Narrowing the Gap for Children at Risk of Not Achieving their Potential****Preventing Ill Health and Unhealthy Lifestyles**

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CHILDREN'S SERVICE DIRECTORATE

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Welcome and Introductions	1 - 2
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2013	3 - 10
3.	Improving outcomes for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities - Introduction to the Children and Families Bill Ian Harrison Education and Skills Director, Penny Richardson, Interim Head of Service – Inclusion and Skills , LBB Paper attached and presentation	11 - 16
4.	The experience of Barnet families with children with Special Education Needs: feedback from research and discussion Innovation Unit	Feedback and Discussion
5.	Meeting the challenge and seizing the opportunity - discussion of the implications for Children's Trust Board partners Val White- Lead Commissioner, Schools, Skills and Learning, LBB	Feedback and Discussion
6.	Any Other Business	
7.	Date of Next Meeting- 24 April 2014 14:00	

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BARNET CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

30 January 2014

14:00 IN THE TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, HENDON NW4 4BG

AGENDA

	1. Welcome and Introductions	Cllr Thompstone	
	2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2013	Cllr Thompstone	
	3. Improving outcomes for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities - Introduction to the Children and Families Bill	Ian Harrison Education and Skills Director, Penny Richardson, Interim Head of Service – Inclusion and Skills , LBB	Paper attached and presentation
	4. The experience of Barnet families with children with Special Education Needs: feedback from research and discussion	Innovation Unit	Feedback and Discussion
	5. Meeting the challenge and seizing the opportunity – discussion of the implications for Children's Trust Board partners	Val White Lead Commissioner, Schools, Skills and Learning, LBB	
	6. Any Other Business	Cllr Thompstone	
	7. Date of Next Meeting – 24 April 2014 14:00	Cllr Thompstone	

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Barnet Children's Trust Board

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 October 2013 at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW4 4BG

AGENDA ITEM 2

PRESENT:

Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman)	LB Barnet
Cllr Helena Hart	LB Barnet
Dr Andrew Howe	LB Barnet
Dr Clare Stephens	Clinical Commissioning Group
Kate Kennally	London Borough of Barnet
Janet Matthewson	CommUnity Barnet
Nicola Francis	LB Barnet

ALSO PRESENT:

Superintendent Simon Corkill	Metropolitan Police
Val White	LB Barnet
Duncan Tessier	LB Barnet
Jenny Gridley	Oakleigh School
Portia Kumalo	LBB/Barnet CCG
Judith Berlow	Central London Community Health Trust

APOLOGIES:

Adrian Usher	Metropolitan Police
David Byrne	Barnet and Southgate College
Tim Beach	Outgoing Independent Chair, LSCB

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Thompstone, the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families welcomed members of the Board and thanked them for their attendance.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2913

The minutes of the meeting of the Barnet Children's Trust Board held on 27 June 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

3. MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

Duncan Tessier, the Assistant Director - Early Intervention and Prevention introduced a presentation that provided the Board with an update on the Children and Young People Plan Performance Indicators.

In introducing the report, Mr Tessier advised the Board that the progress was presented by seven strands with a monitoring period from April 2013 – September 2013. The strands were: Early Years; Primary; Secondary; Preparation for Adulthood; Early Intervention and Prevention; Targeting of Resources to Narrow the Gap; and Keeping Children and Young People Safe.

Mr Tessier highlighted the percentage of breastfeeding within the Borough at 6 – 8 weeks from birth was 84.7%, below the target of 95%

Dr. Andrew Howe, the Director for Public Health at Barnet and Harrow Councils referred to the percentage of children immunised for MMR before their second birthday, which was 82.1%, with a target of 95%, Dr. Howe noted that it was important to take a step forward on this statistic and have a report on immunisation data collection.

The Board were advised that it had been challenging to collect data from Partners in some instances. A Member of the Board commented that there was a need to clarify how the health community would decide which data to put forward.

Councillor Helena Hart, the Cabinet Member for Public Health questioned how this discussion would be taken forward with NHS England.

Kate Kennally, the Director for People commented that the Children and Young People Plan was no longer statutory, and advised the plan was written in partnership with Board members, and that the Board should also take responsibility for the delivery of the plan.

The Board had a discussion regarding the submissions by partner agencies around the indicators and their progress. Partner agencies were asked to provide any thoughts and amendments to Yogita Popat by Friday 1 November 2013 so that where appropriate this could be fed back into the Health & Wellbeing Board. It was agreed that Ms. Popat would e-mail all partners after the meeting to provide her full contact details to enable this submission.

RESOLVED that the Board note the mid-year performance report.

4. 14/15 BUDGET PROPOSALS AND LONGER TERM FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

Val White, the Schools, Skills and Learning Lead Commissioner provided the Board with a presentation that provided an outline of the Council's 2014/15 budget proposals and longer term financial challenges.

The Board was advised that the Council needs to make savings of £18.930 million in 2014/15, and savings of in £20.082 million in 2015/16, and highlighted the huge challenges that the service was required to implement.

Ms. White advised the Board that the Council was planning now for continuing austerity until at least, the end of the decade. The Board was advised that the Council had forecast a budget gap between 2016-2020 at around £70 million from a total budget of circa. £270 million.

In context of the financial context, Members commented on the need to deliver as much as possible through efficiencies.

A Member of the Board commented that Special Educational Needs Transport was not working as well as it could, and expressed concern about the future in light of future efficiencies planned for this service area.

Ms. Kennally advised the Board of the need for the Council to consult widely with partner agencies in light of budget constraints. Ms. Kennally also advised the Committee that

the 2014/15 budget figures, and the 2015/16 budget figures would be published shortly, and advised that a link would be sent around to members of the Board to make them aware.

RESOLVED that the Board note the 2014/15 Budget Proposals and Longer Term Financial Challenges.

5. EARLY YEARS

Duncan Tessier, the Early Intervention and Prevention Assistant Director presented a report which provided the Board with an update on the early years review that is being led by the council.

Mr. Tessier advised the Board that the review would look at early years provision in a strategic way and would include children's centres and nurseries.

The Board were advised that Phase One of the review had completed, and had included the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, and that information had been collected from over 1,000 parents and childcare providers.

Mr. Tessier advised the Board that the emerging findings of the review had led to three key recommendations:

- 1) Strategic Integration
- 2) A shift in balance from universal to targeted services
- 3) A response to changes in demographic growth.

Commenting on the first recommendation of strategic integration, a member of the Board noted that it was well observed that integration with health partners has clear benefits, and recommended doing a pilot with Health Visitors in Children's Centres.

A representative from Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group endorsed the idea of a pilot piece of work based upon joining up Children's Centres with health partners such as GPs, Health Visitors and midwives.

A Member of the Board expressed concern about the possibility of a shift in universal to targeting services. Mr. Tessier advised that despite any potential shift, universal services would remain. A Member questioned which areas of universal services would remain. Mr. Tessier advised that the review was based on the principle of doing what works, and noted that an increased focus on targeted groups was the direction of OFSTED.

Ms. Kennally noted the challenge of the need to make childminding a more desirable childcare option, as had been highlighted in the Phase One report.

Responding to a member of the Board, Mr. Tessier advised that the "2 Year Old Offer" had become a requirement this year.

RESOLVED that the Board endorse the recommendations in the report, in particular the need for an integrated approach to better take advantage of the opportunity to intervene early and prevent needs escalating for higher risk families.

6. INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND ADDRESSING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: LEARNING LESSONS AND NEXT STEPS

Ian Harrison, the Education and Skills Director introduced a report which addressed the issues of increasing participation and addressing youth unemployment.

Mr. Harrison advised the Board that a scheme, known as “Platforms” had been created through work of a 14-19 year old partnership group comprising of the Local Authority, schools, Barnet and Southgate Colleague and alternative provision providers had been started last year. The Board were advised that the “Platforms” scheme was designed to develop a wide range of options and pilot approaches to gauge which projects were most successful in terms of helping young people to improve their skills, confidence and work readiness. The Board were advised that eight work streams were piloted, which were:

- Apprenticeships
- Internships
- Prince’s Trust for young people needing support to motivate
- Voluntary Sector Placements
- Graduate Support
- 16-24 Employability Support
- Enterprise and Stat-up Support
- Support for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities

Mr. Harrison highlighted the delivery of the projects was by partnership working, and noted the key successes of the partnership working, which were:

- The main aim of the Council’s Platforms programme was to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training aged 16-24 years in Barnet. During Phase 1, the JSA claimant count for 18-24 year olds living in Barnet has decreased from June 2012 to June 2013 by 1.1% (approximately 255 young people).
- By the end of July 2013, Platforms had engaged with over 290 young people, with over 160 young people actively participating over the 8 projects. Over 260 employers were engaged with, and of these over 70 employers actively participated with Platforms to boost their staff capacity and to support young people on the programme. 8 Internship and Jobs Mob placements were converted into full apprenticeships, demonstrating the benefits of a ‘work trial’.
- Barnet Apprenticeship Agency established and generated 40 vacancies for young people during the period June 2012/13.
- There have been 14 new places created in from September 2013 through a partnership between Oak Lodge School and Barnet and Southgate College.

Mr. Harrison then commented of the lessons learnt from the “Platforms” programme, and advised the Board that:

- Apprenticeship opportunities have been the most difficult to fill and very resource intensive for the number of outcomes generated. The low minimum wage for apprenticeships appears to have put off young people aged 19-24 years, maybe due to overhead costs, such as travel. This is a feature common in London.

However, we need to consider the types and levels of apprenticeship opportunities to make sure that we learn lessons from elsewhere in the country which have similar employment patterns where the take up of apprenticeships has been high.

- There has been a lack of interest in the enterprise support element of the Platforms offer, something reflected at a national level, potentially due to the economic climate and lack of confidence in starting a business at a young age. However, given the high number of small businesses in Barnet, we need to consider what support young people need to encourage more to join this local enterprise economy.
- Projects aimed at the harder to reach young people found it challenging to encourage take up among young people who lack motivation or face significant personal barriers to work including housing, family and mental health issues.
- Some young people were not job ready so required not only motivational support, but also intensive employability skills, which were provided by the Skills and Enterprise Adviser. Working directly with the young people and the associated business engagement and support is resource intensive.
- The most successful and popular elements of the Platforms projects were the paid Internships, the Princes Trust projects helping to motivate young people and voluntary sector funded work placements offering nine month placements for young people from the more deprived parts of the borough.

Commenting on sustainability, Mr. Harrison advised the Board that the Council was continuing to support the development of apprenticeships through the Barnet Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) which was pump primed to become self-sustaining.

The Board were advised that several voluntary sector organisations are seeking funding to retain their young person following the end of the 9 month placement and a number of the internship placements have converted into apprenticeships or extended placements, and that the Council would seek to explore innovative and creative funding models to build on this success.

The Board noted that the Job Centre Plus is continuing to work closely with partners to provide a referral mechanism for NEET young people who are eligible for benefits onto suitable projects, and that the Jobcentre Plus continues to provide support for graduates through the Sector Based Work Academy

Members of the Board also noted that Barnet and Southgate College has won the opportunity to manage the corporate training operations and deliver its own retail and catering training (including JCP) at the Hospitality Guild's new "Hospitality House" venue in Finchley from October 2013.

Mr. Harrison then provided the Board with an overview of the next steps that would be taken, in order to incorporate the lessons learned so far.

Mr. Harrison spoke to of importance of identifying potential funding opportunities to sustain and develop the most successful elements of the Platforms project: paid internships, the Princes Trust projects and voluntary sector funded work placements

The Board were advised of the importance of promoting the creation of apprenticeships within the Barnet economy, including leading through example within the council, other public sector organisations and their associated supply chains., and noted the importance of supporting schools in the early preparation of young people for apprenticeships and the world of work.

Mr. Harrison also noted the requirement to foster the collaboration between schools and colleges to provide a curriculum offers that provides a smooth transition from school to college. (e.g. extending the new collaborative 6th form between 4 schools and Barnet and Southgate College)

A Member referred to the new provision for young people with learning difficulties as set out in the report, and asked about the possibility of extending this provision back to young people who would already have gone through the system. Ms. White advised the Board that this was a discussion that was to be had with Barnet and Southgate College.

A Member of the Board commented on the importance of young people being signposted towards the services that were available, and noted the need for young people to undertake work-type placements to gain experience. Ms. Kennally advised that it was here that school were able to make a real difference through ensuring access to independent careers advice.

RESOLVED that the Board note the progress made and the lessons learnt.

7. BARNET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Nicola Francis, the Family Services Director introduced the Barnet Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report for 2012-2013, and noted that it was the report of the out-going Chair, Mr. Tim Beach.

Ms. Francis advised Board that the report demonstrates the collaboration from parties around the Safeguarding agenda, and highlighted the success of Barnet's Youth Shield, who had won the London Safeguarding Children's Awards.

The Board were advised of the challenges that faced the Barnet Safeguarding Children's Board, noting firstly, the importance of ensuring that Safeguarding remains a priority. The Board also noted the challenges that would arise from changes to the OFSTED Inspection Frameworks.

Ms. Francis highlighted the Board's role as a "critical friend", and the strategic importance of holding to account the agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.

The Board were advised of the importance of the development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Ms Francis advised that the Board must monitor the impact of the MASH on partnership agencies, and noted the importance of the MASH in the context of information sharing.

Ms. Francis noted the continuing challenge of efficiency and delivering budget savings in the context of the Borough's increasing child population and the need to ensure that this does not adversely impact on the protection of children.

The Board were also advised of the appointment of a single Chair for both the Adults and Children Safeguarding Boards. Ms. Francis advised that she believed this decision to be a good opportunity to refresh and energise the work of the Board. Ms. Kennally advised the Board that Christopher Miller had been appointed as the new independent Chair and that he had a background in both policing.

Ms. Kennally advised the Board that there would be a “takeover” day in the Council by Children and Young People on 22 November 2013. She advised that Voice of the Child Co-ordinator would be able to outline opportunities for involvement of other organisations wished to participate.

RESOLVED that the Board note the contents of the report.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2014, 2:00 PM

10. PRESENTATION BY YOUNG PARENTS (IN PRIVATE SESSION)

RESOLVED that the Board note the exempt information.

The meeting finished at 12.07 pm

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Meeting:	Date:	Agenda Item No:
Children's Trust Board	30 January 2014	

Title of paper:
Improving outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities – including Barnet's response to the Children & Families Bill

Summary of paper:
Barnet's Children and Young People Plan sets out our ambition and intent to improve outcomes for all Barnet's children and young people and has a particular focus on supporting those that are vulnerable. This paper sets out an opportunity for the partnership to seize new government proposals for addressing the needs of children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and invites the board to consider how best to maximise this for the benefit of Barnet's children.
In November 2013, Barnet's Health and Well-Being Board agreed in principle to sign-up to the Disabled Children's Charter, a set of commitments to disabled children and their families. These include strong commitments around having good, local information about need and publishing how we plan to meet this; engaging with children, young people and carers; early intervention; transitions; and integration of services.
The Children and Families Bill, currently working its way through Parliament, now offers an opportunity for local partnerships to review and improve local services for vulnerable children. The Government proposals for this group of children underpin wider government reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Bill will reform the systems for adoption, looked after children, family justice and special educational needs. It will encourage growth in the childcare sector, introduce a new system of shared parental leave and ensure children in England have a strong advocate for their rights.
This paper focuses on the reforms being put in place for children with Special Educational Needs. It outlines the intentions of the government reforms, the specific requirements in relation to children with special educational needs and how the reforms are being progressed in Barnet. The paper provides a background briefing to inform a discussion session at the Board that will consider the known challenges and will invite the Board to consider the questions below. The questions will be debated following further information on the Bill and feedback from service users, presented as part of the agenda.

Action required by board:

The Board are asked to consider following questions for partnership focus:

- How do we make best use of the upcoming changes to ensure that we are improving outcomes and reducing costs and not just entering into an exercise in compliance?
- To what extent are we able to facilitate personalisation through personal budgets? How ambitious should we be in unlocking existing service budgets?
- How do we ensure that we have a consistent local offer for families across education, health and care for those not eligible for an Education, Health and Care plan, as well as for those who are?
- To consider, as leaders in Barnet, what commitment we can give to ensure that the maximum benefit can be derived from our local implementation of the Bill?

Author of paper

NAME: Val White, James Mass, Ian Harrison

ORGANISATION: LBB

PHONE NO: 020 8359 4610

Improving outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities – including Barnet’s response to the Children & Families Bill

1. Background

Barnet’s Children and Young People Plan sets out our ambition and intent to improve outcomes for all Barnet’s children and young people and has a particular focus on supporting those that are vulnerable. This paper sets out new government proposals to improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs through a new integrated assessment of their education, health and care needs, and invites the board to consider how best to maximise this opportunity for the benefit of Barnet’s children.

The relevant priorities within our plan in relation to our ambition to improve outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties/and or disabilities are:

Early years

- Ensure children in need of support are identified early and appropriately supported in their early years.

Preparation for Adulthood

- Ensure services are integrated to support young people as they transition to adulthood
- Offer relevant and tailored learning and employment opportunities.

Targeting Resources to Narrow the Gap

- Enable those with Special Educational Needs, Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and complex needs to achieve their potential

In November 2013, Barnet’s Health and Well-Being Board agreed in principle to sign-up to the Disabled Children’s Charter, a set of commitments to disabled children and their families. These include strong commitments around having good, local information about need and publishing how we plan to meet this; engaging with children, young people and carers; early intervention; transitions; and integration of services. Against this backdrop, the local authority is leading a partnership response to specific measures currently proposed within the Children and Families Bill, currently working its way through parliament with an implementation date of September 2014.

2. Background to the Children and Families Bill

In December 2010, the Department for Education (DfE) invited parents, charities, teachers and local authorities to contribute to the government’s Green Paper on Special Educational Needs. The aim was to find ways to identify the needs of children and young people earlier, to make it easier for families to receive the support they need, and to develop fairer and more transparent funding arrangements. The publication of the Green Paper ‘Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability’ on 11 March 2011 marked the start of a period of consultation and testing of the proposals in local areas. In September 2011 the DfE introduced 20 schemes to test the reforms in 31 different local authorities.

As a result of the Green Paper consultation, the DfE published the report ‘Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability - progress and next

steps' in May 2012. The report set out the progress made on the SEND green paper proposals and outlined the next steps to follow.

In February 2013, the government published a Children and Families Bill to make the changes to the law that are required for the Green Paper reforms. The Bill sets out the duties for all the agencies involved in providing services for children and young people with SEN. In March 2013, the DfE published indicative draft regulations and draft guidance, called a code of practice, to provide more detail about how the law will work in practice. It launched a consultation on the regulations and a full draft code of practice on 4 October 2013. It expects to introduce these in September 2014.

The Children and Families Bill takes forward the Government's commitments to improve services for vulnerable children and to support strong families. It underpins wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Bill will reform the systems for adoption, looked after children, family justice and special educational needs. It will encourage growth in the childcare sector, introduce a new system of shared parental leave and ensure children in England have a strong advocate for their rights.

3. Provision for children with special educational needs

The government is aiming to transform the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), including those who are disabled, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them. The Bill will extend the SEN system from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parents greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met. It takes forward the reform programme set out in 'Support and aspiration: a new approach to special education needs and disability - progress and next steps' including by:

- replacing old statements with a new birth- to-25 education, health and care plan
- offering families personal budgets
- improving cooperation between all the services that support children and their families, particularly requiring local authorities and health authorities to work together.

The draft legislative provisions are summarised as follows:

a) Publishing a **Local Offer** of Provision in Barnet:

- Parents and young people will have access to a single source of coherent and complete information to manage their choices with regard to services which support children and young people with SEN and disabilities in Barnet. This single source will also include information about family support services and guidance on dispute resolution. It will be published as a web-based document but will also be available in other accessible formats.
- Parents and young people are directly involved in the development and review of the local offer with the local authority and their feedback will be published.
- The intention is that the local authority will be able to obtain a clear idea about gaps in provision following the local offer process, which will enable the authority, in collaboration with stakeholders, to review current provision and develop future provision to meet local needs.

b) Developing a coordinated **0-25 assessment process and Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans** (including a new duty for joint commissioning which will require local authorities and health bodies to take joint responsibility for providing services):

- The introduction of a co-ordinated assessment process across education, health and social care.

- The replacement of the current system of statements and learning difficulty assessments, with a single 0-25 Education Health and Care Plan, which retains all the protections of statements, places parents and young people at the heart of decision-making and is clearly focused on both short and long term outcomes – including employment and independent living.
 - For those children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan, parents and young people are able to express a preference for any State-funded school, college or training provider and some independent provision.
- c) Introduction of an option for a **Personal Budget** for parents of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care plan:

- Parents and young people who have an EHCP will have the option to have a personal budget for some of the support they require. For a child or a young person with an EHCP, the Local Authority will identify an amount of money available to secure provision that is specified in the EHCP, with a view that the child's parents or the young person is involved in securing the provision. The personal budget will cover the individualised support activity as set out in an EHCP, but not the school or college / training provider place.

3. Additional provisions within the Bill

This report concentrates on the main provisions of the Bill in relation to pupils with special educational needs. However, there are also some other important provisions:

- **Adoption and virtual school head** – The Bill supports the reforms set out in 'An action plan for adoption: tackling delay' including by promoting fostering for adoption and improving support for adoptive families. In addition, the Bill will require every local authority to have a virtual school headteacher to champion the education of children in the authority's care, as if they all attended the same school.
- **Family justice system** - The Bill will implement commitments the government made in response to the Family Justice Review including by introducing a time limit of 26 weeks when courts are considering whether a child should be taken into care and making sure more families have the opportunity to try mediation before applying to court.
- **Childcare** – There are enabling measures in the Bill to support wider reforms to increase the supply of high quality, affordable and available childcare including the introduction of child-minder agencies to help more child-minders into the market and offer greater support and quality assurance.
- **Office of the Children's Commissioner** - The Bill will take forward recommendations in John Dunford's 'Review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner (England)' including giving the commissioner a statutory remit to promote and protect children's rights.
- **Shared parental leave and flexible working** - The Bill will implement the commitments in the government's response (November 2012) to the modern workplaces consultation, including promotion of a system of shared parental leave, and extending the right to request flexible working to all employees.
- For more information on these aspects of the Bill, please refer to the DfE website at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/a00221161/>.

4. Current progress within the partnership

In order to address the requirements of the Bill and to ensure we develop appropriate plans to meet future needs, the council is leading a number of transformation projects to:

- Develop and articulate the ‘Local Offer’ across the partnership
- Design and implement the new integrated Education, Health and Care Plans
- Identify services with potential for the development of ‘personal budgets’

Each work-stream is informed by a stakeholder working group. The groups involve officers from education, family, adult and health services. Wider stakeholder engagement is underway with voluntary groups, parent groups and consultation with parents and children and young people.

Alongside preparing for the legislative changes, the local authority is leading a project to plan to meet the future needs through:

- A comprehensive data mapping exercise identifying current and projected need for provision and support to meet the needs of children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- A detailed review of current provision (in borough, out of borough maintained/independent/non-maintained).
- Forecasting of gaps in provision relating to data on current and future need.
- Research into options to meet needs/address gaps
- Development of Business Cases with recommendations for meeting future need.

5. Known challenges in Barnet

Through the work so far, a number of challenges are emerging that present barriers to maximising the potential opportunities afforded through the government reforms. The main barriers emerging are:

- difficulty in securing engagement from all partners in the development work to respond to the provisions in the Bill.
- managing the expectations of parental representatives whilst ensuring a breadth of co-production
- ensuring a consistent understanding of the “ordinarily available” schools offer across Barnet.
- the potential to invest in early intervention and support to families to reduce on-going costs needs further development.

6. Action required by board:

The Board are asked to consider following questions for partnership focus:

- How do we make best use of the upcoming changes to ensure that we are improving outcomes and reducing costs and not just entering into an exercise in compliance?
- To what extent are we able to facilitate personalisation through personal budgets? How ambitious should we be in unlocking existing service budgets?
- How do we ensure that we have a consistent local offer for families across education, health and care for those not eligible for an Education, Health and Care plan, as well as for those who are?
- To consider, as leaders in Barnet, what commitment we can give to ensure that the maximum benefit can be derived from our local implementation of the Bill?