

	<h2>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</h2> <h3>15th November 2017</h3>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2017-2020</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Strategic Director for Children and Young People</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2017-2020 Appendix B; Equalities Impact Assessment</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Chris Munday, Strategic Director for Children and Young People chris.munday@barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director ian.j.harrison@barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7943</p> <p>Simon James, Assistant Director – SEND and Inclusion simon.james@barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 020 8359 2754</p>

Summary

This report seeks approval of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee to commence consultation on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2017-2020 for Barnet contained in Appendix A. The strategy has been developed in partnership with schools and parents and carers and proposes a local vision along with priorities for the future provision and development of services to support children with SEND. The report seeks agreement of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee to delegate to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People the responsibility to take account of the consultation responses and approve the

final strategy. The Strategy contains proposals to meet the future need for specialist places (Appendix (ii) of the strategy). The report seeks agreement of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee to delegate the approval of decision making in relation to the location of new specialist places in Barnet maintained schools, subject to consideration of consultation responses on the strategy, to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approve the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2017-2020 (Appendix A) for consultation with stakeholders as set out in paragraph 6.2 below.**
- 2. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee delegate the final approval of the strategy, taking account of the consultation, to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People.**
- 3. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the proposal to commission additional specialist places for children and young people as set out in Appendix (ii) and delegate the approval of decision making in relation to the location of new specialist places in Barnet maintained schools, subject to consideration of consultation responses, to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1. This report proposes the approval of consultation on a strategy to meet the needs of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from 2017 through to 2020. The strategy has been developed in partnership by the council, schools, health partners, voluntary sector partners and parents and carers. The strategy sets out a partnership vision and identifies six strategic priorities to drive the work of the SEND partnership in Barnet. It describes how the partnership will work together to steer the delivery of the strategic priorities in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND.
- 1.2. The report seeks agreement of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee to delegate to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People the responsibility to take account of the consultation responses and approve the final strategy.
- 1.3. The strategy contains proposals to meet the future need for specialist places (Appendix (ii) of the strategy). This report seeks agreement of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee to delegate the approval of decision making in relation to the location of new specialist places in Barnet

maintained schools, subject to consideration of consultation responses on the strategy, to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People.

Context

- 1.4 Around 2.6% of Barnet's school population has an Education, Health and Care Plan or statement; this compares to 2.8% nationally. A further 11% of the school population has been identified as having a special educational need and is receiving support (known as SEN support). The largest groups of needs are Autistic Spectrum Conditions and Speech, Language and Communication Needs; between them they account for the majority of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan or statement.
- 1.5 The overall number of children and young people with SEN statements or Education, Health and Care Plans has risen by 21% since 2014 and is expected to rise by a further 20% between 2017 and 2025. A significant proportion of the growth is due to the extension of SEND eligibility from 0-18 to 0-25; the growth also reflects the overall increase in Barnet's population of children and young people. The number of children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions is growing significantly faster than for other types of need.

Vision

- 1.6 Barnet is an inclusive authority, with a significantly greater proportion of students educated in mainstream schools than the national average. The strategy builds on the strength of the local partnership and the strategy's vision is:

'That all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities reach their full potential. We are committed to ensuring that clear and realistic outcomes are achieved and that young people have the opportunity to become as healthy, independent and resilient as possible.'

- 1.7 This vision supports the ambition of Barnet to be the most Family Friendly Borough by 2020 as well as helping to deliver Barnet's Education Strategy's vision for *'Barnet to be the most successful place for high quality education where excellent school standards result in all children achieving their best, being safe and happy and able to progress to become successful adults'*

Strategic priorities:

- 1.8 The strategy sets out six priorities to achieve the vision:
 - Priority 1: To ensure effective, timely and robust decision-making for children, young people and their families
 - Priority 2: To improve participation of, and co-production with, key partners, parents, families, children and young people in decision-making

- Priority 3: To ensure effective joint commissioning and integration of services from early years through to adulthood
- Priority 4: To champion the educational progress and attainment of pupils with SEND
- Priority 5: To ensure sufficient and appropriate local and inclusive provision
- Priority 6: To promote independence and prepare children and young people for adulthood

1.9 For each priority the strategy sets out the reasons for the priority, what success in achieving the priority looks like and the key actions required to deliver the priority.

Governance

1.10 The strategy also sets out the governance arrangements for overseeing the delivery of the strategy. Parents and carers are part of the governance arrangements and help lead the delivery of local SEND service development in the borough. Parent and carer are represented within a number of multi-agency working groups that each lead on a particular strand of SEND service (Education, Health and Care Plans and SEN Support; Co-production; Local Offer; Early Years; Preparing for Adulthood).

Future need for SEND provision

1.11 Appendix (ii) of the SEND strategy sets out in more detail the plans for meeting the future need for school and post-16 places for children and young people with SEND through to 2025. On the 14th June 2016, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee considered the result of consultation undertaken on options to meet the future needs for SEND places, resulting in plans for development of The Windmill, a new all-through free school for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

1.12 This new free school will meet a significant element of need but the analysis identifies more provision will be required – around an additional 125 specialist places by 2025. The government is making a one-off pot of capital investment funding available to local authorities in recognition of the need to provide more school places for children with SEND. Barnet's allocation is about £3m across 2018/19 to 2020/21 (£1m each year) enabling the council to invest in new specialist provision to meet this need.

1.13 The strategy proposes that this additional need is met through the commissioning of three Additional Resourced Provisions within maintained schools and in the consultation, consultees will be invited for their views on this approach. This report seeks the delegation of decision making in relation to meeting this additional need to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People, taking account of any consultation responses.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The strategy provides a framework to drive the work of the SEND partnership in Barnet through to 2020 to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.
- 2.2 The recommendation to delegate decision making to the Commissioning Director for Children and Young People in relation to the final approval of the strategy and for meeting the future need for specialist places is to enable efficient and timely decision making.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The strategic priorities were developed in partnership with schools, health partners, voluntary sector partners and parents and carers and therefore reflect the priorities of the partnership.
- 3.2 In relation to the future provision of places, the approach set out in the strategy implements the approach to meeting the need for new SEND provision approved by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee in 2016 (see section 8 for background papers).

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Action to deliver the strategic priorities will be overseen by the governance arrangements set out in the strategy.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 1.1.1 The quality of the education offer 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 family friendly, with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools. Excellent educational outcomes and ensuring children and young people are equipped to meet the needs of employers are key to deliver the Council's vision set out in its Corporate Plan 2015-20 for:

- Barnet's schools to be amongst the best in the country, with enough places for all, and with all children achieving the best they can
- Barnet's children and young people to receive a great start in life and
- For there to be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages

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

The strategy will be delivered within existing revenue resources. 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. The capital funding identified in the council's medium term financial strategy will be partly funded by the one-off government capital grant of £3m across 2018/19 to 2020/21 (£1m each year) (paragraph 1.9 above).

5.2 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.2.1 As set out in Article 7 of the Council Constitution (Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has responsibility for for all matters relating to children, schools, education, libraries and is responsible for considering for approval of any non-statutory plan or strategy within the remit of the Committee, subject to this not being reserved to Full Council or Policy and Resources.
- 5.2.2 Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 place 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.
- 5.2.3 Section 27 of the Children and Families Act requires local authorities to keep under review its special educational provision and social care provision.
- 5.2.4 Regulations on school organisation require local authorities to follow a prescribed process when making changes to maintained schools. Adding, removing or altering SEN provision at a mainstream school would require the statutory process to be followed. Whilst there is not a statutory duty to consult prior to publication of proposals, the statutory guidance recommends that local authorities consult interested parties in formulating proposals.
- 5.2.5 The statutory guidance also recommends that local authorities aim for a flexible range of provision and support that can respond to individual pupil needs and parental preference.

5.3 Risk Management

5.3.2 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.

5.4 Equalities and Diversity

5.4.1 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups; foster good relations between people from different groups.

5.4.2 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.

5.4.3 Ensuring a high quality education offer for children and young people with SEND supports the educational progress of children and young people with additional learning needs and young people with behavioural emotional and social difficulties. Appendix B contains an Equalities Impact Assessment in relation to the strategy. Identifying strategic priorities to drive forward the partnership approach to improving outcomes for these groups of pupils will support children with SEND to achieve the best they can.

6. Consultation and Engagement

6.1 The partnership's shared vision and strategic priorities at the core of the strategy have been developed in consultation with schools, health partners, voluntary sector partners and parents and carers. The working groups described in section 6 with representation from parents and carers have identified the key areas of improvement required in the development of SEND services for wider consultation.

6.2 The draft strategy has been shared with headteacher representatives, parent and carer representatives as well as key health and voluntary sector partner organisations. It is now proposed to undertake wider consultation with parents and carers of children with SEND, key education providers and key partner organisations. This wider consultation will be undertaken through the distribution of consultation documents to parents and carers, schools, education providers, the young people's representative group, and partner organisations. The consultation documents will be available on the council's website and through the local offer. The consultation will be for a period of ten weeks between November 2017 and January 2018.

7. Insight

A range of data sources including demographic projections, pupil characteristics, census data, national assessment results and school census returns are used in the development of priorities and in monitoring outcomes for children and young people with SEND

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 Item 10, Preparing to Meet Future Need for Children with Special Educational Needs: Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 10th March 2015.
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=7882&Ver=4>
- 5.2 Item 8, Future Provision of Specialist Places for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities: Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 15th July 2015.
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=8332&Ver=4>
- 5.3 The future provision of specialist places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2015/16 to 2019/20, Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 11th January 2016
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=8335&Ver=4>
- 5.4 The future provision of specialist places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2015/16 to 2019/20, Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 14th July 2016
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=8634&Ver=4>
- 5.5 Education Strategy 2017- 2020, Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 13th July 2017
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=9091&Ver=4>