

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action

For Information



Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

This report provides a progress update on the Authority's strategic reviews of SEND and Alternative Provision. This update includes continued discussion on matters presented to the Schools Forum on 11 July as well as the Authority's consultation on the District's SEND Strategy.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

The Schools Forum has received regular updates on SEND and SEMH strategic reviews, most recently on 11 July 2018.

Background / Context

Forum Members are referred to the minutes of the 11 July 2018 meeting, which summarise the update provided in Document IV and the discussion that took place from this, which focused on places sufficiency. Documents JC and JD presented to this meeting provide an update on High Needs Block funding matters.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Bradford District SEND Strategy Consultation

It was agreed by the SEND Strategic Partnership Board in July 2018 that the draft SEND Strategy 2018 – 2020 will go out for consultation and comments in September. This draft strategy document has now been released for consultation until 7 October. The consultation document is attached at Appendix 1. The document can also be found on Bradford Schools online and on the Authority's Local Offer website. The email address for comments and responses is Send.Strategy.Feedback@bradford.gov.uk

The vision for Bradford District's children and young people with SEND and additional support needs is:

As multi-agency partners we will make sure we improve the outcomes and reduce inequalities for all children and young people with SEND in Bradford District, so that they flourish and reach their potential.

The draft strategy includes 7 priorities for the district:

1. Engagement, co-production and consultation

Communications with children and young people, parents and carers will ensure they have access to information on education, health and social care in one place and feel they can help shape plans and that their views are listened to and acted upon.

2. Embed the SEND code of practice

Early identification of needs will lead to high quality, personalised provision which is planned, delivered and evaluated at all levels.

3. Development of provision and services

Sufficiency of services and quality provision will be in place to enable children and their families to feel supported and included within the community.

4. Quality and effectiveness of provision

Effective evaluation and impact measures will ensure a service which leads to positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

5. Smooth and effective transitions

All transitions including those from pre-school into primary, primary to secondary and preparation for adulthood, will be well planned to ensure a smooth and fulfilling pathway through a child's life.

6. Leadership, governance and accountability

Strategic leadership at all levels across the local area, will produce a fully integrated process aligning all strategies across the district and driven by an agreed, accountable, multi-agency approach.

7. Joint commissioning

A Joint Commissioning Strategy will be established that delivers greater alignment of provision for SEND across the Local Authority and CCGs

Details of the Item for Consideration

Sufficiency of Specialist Places – SEMH Free School

Further to the Council Executive report of 3 April, which detailed the additional places required, and the report presented to Schools Forum in July, we have since been successful with the opening of a second bidding round for applications for the LA commissioned 72 place SEMH Free School.

The four month bidding window opened on 9 July and closes 9 November 2018. The first stakeholder engagement event took place on 12 July and a further event is scheduled for 26 September.

The DfE schedule is to identify a successful sponsor by early December 2018 and begin work with the LA from early January 2019. The anticipated date for the opening the new free school is still September 2020. A site has already been identified and plans have been drawn up with architects and DfE officers. Because there were no successful bids from the first round, it has been agreed with Children's Services that if no applicants wish to take on the 12 place residential element of the new school, the Local Authority will run this. The residential element will be housed in a separate building within the same grounds.

All the information, guidance, information and plans are available here for interested parties:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/education-and-skills/special-free-schools/local-authority-commissioned-special-free-school/>

Sufficiency of Specialist Places – 'Wave 13' Free Schools

The DfE [launched a bidding round](#) on 24 July for local authorities wishing to set up SEND or Alternative Provision (AP) Free schools.

There is no 'Expression of Interest' phase in place for these bids and so the DfE has requested that Local Authorities pre-register their interest if they are considering submitting a bid. As a result, we have pre-registered our interest in bids for generic special schools, and for the primary need of Autism, as well as a bid for Alternative Provision focusing on the secondary age range.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

This is an item for information. The matters in this report will have direct implications on the DSG. The financial position of the High Needs Block will dominate discussions on the management of the 2019/20 DSG.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and to note the update.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

Appendix 1 – Consultation on SEND Strategy

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