

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny to be held on 12 October 2022

Subject: SEND Services Update

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Summary statement:

The following report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Committees with an update on the SEND Inspection and activities relating SEND in the Bradford Local Area.

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area: Childrens
Services**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides members with a comprehensive overview of SEND services across the District following the SEND Inspection that was undertaken by Ofsted and the CQC on the 7th March 2022 to the 11th March 2022.
- 1.2 Members are asked to note the strengths reported in the inspection letter and the work that has been done particularly since 2019. Members are also asked to note the areas for improvement highlighted. The letter also sets out the five Written Statements of Action (WSOA) that the Local Area will need to respond to through an improvement plan, following the publication of the inspection letter. This plan will be submitted to regulators within 70 days of the publishing of the Inspection Letter.
- 1.3 Members are asked to consider the co-production activities and acknowledge the future SEND Improvement Programme which has been approved. Members are also asked to note that this has been co-produced with parent-carers, young people, core statutory partners, the voluntary sector and front line practitioners prior to the Inspection.
- 1.4 Ofsted agreed with the Local Area that we knew ourselves well and that our proposed Improvement Programme will provide the changes we need to deliver positive outcomes for families and children.
- 1.5 This report should also be considered in light of the SEND Review launched by the Government to consider the impact of the new SEND Code of Practice that is referenced within this report.

2. SEND Services in the Bradford Local Area

- 2.1 Bradford was inspected on the 7th March 2022, to determine the effect and impact of SEND services that are set out in the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and Children and Families Act 2014. The Inspection considered the progress of all statutory partners known as the Local Area which include; NHS Services, The CCG, Education and Learning, Bradford's Schools, Public Health, The Voluntary Sector Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and core commissioned services such as SENDIASS.
- 2.2 The inspection considers in totality the amount of work completed for the whole of the period since the reforms were introduced in 2014 and contains substantial historical information relating to services from 2014 to 2022.
- 2.3 The Ofsted Letter received on the 6th May 2022, highlights the Local Areas strengths, areas for improvement and Written Statements of Action (WSOA). The Inspection was wide ranging and inspected over 100 services delivered by the NHS, Local Authority, voluntary sector and across our 228 schools across the Bradford District.
- 2.4 The Inspection considered the efficiency and effectiveness of Joint Commissioning and the impact our activities have had, to improve outcomes for children and their families with SEND in Bradford.

- 2.5 The Local Area has been issued a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) in regards to 5 areas that require improvements to be made. These will be discussed in more detail throughout this report. The Local Area as specifically been asked to create a WSOA improvement plan to improve the following areas:
1. Poor communication between stakeholders across education, health and care.
 2. The variable quality of EHC Plans including plans which do not fully describe the provision that children and young people with SEND need.
 3. The inconsistent delivery of the 0-19 health visiting, school nursing and specialist nursing service.
 4. Children and young people wait too long for assessments, treatment and diagnoses. There is insufficient support for children and young people with SEND who are waiting for provision, services, diagnosis or equipment.
 5. Joint Commissioning of Services for SEND are underdeveloped.
- 2.6 This Report and the Ofsted inspection also considered the impact of Covid and the results of our activity considering the operational constraints caused by the Pandemic over the last 12 months.

SEND Reform Implementations 2014-2019

- 2.7 Ofsted have reported in their inspection letter, that the Local Area was slow to implement the SEND reforms across the Local Area. This has been found nationally to be a common trend with **54%** of all local areas being issued with a Written Statement of Action. This is due to the SEND reforms being highly complex in nature and requiring all local areas to deliver a full structural shift from statements, to more detailed Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC).

Key Improvement Activities in 2019-2022 prior to the Ofsted Inspection

- 2.8 Since January 2019, significant improvements have been made across SEND services with the aim of embedding the SEND Reforms. The introduction of the SEND Strategic Board in late 2019, provided a major shift of emphasis in Bradford. The Board provides a key decision making activity for the delivery of SEND Services across all partners and was well received by Ofsted.
- 2.9 A new SEND Transformation and Compliance team was created in 2020, to support the growth of the SSPB. This service led the creation of multi-agency and partner workstreams that were owned across the Local Area to help drive and oversee improvements for families and children. In order to provide a focus to our SEND Transformation activities, we arranged our work into four direct workstreams to set out about bringing improvements in our SEND Services.

Strengthening EHC Planning and Timeliness Processes

- 2.10 To address historical challenges with the publication of EHC Plans in a timely manner, a strengthening of the 0-25 Integrated Assessment Team with an increased number of SEN Casework Officers was completed. This work allowed the Local Authority to be more effective in providing EHC plans in a timely manner. Compliance improved from less than **30%** of plans being completed to over **75%** of plans being completed in 20 weeks in the last year.
- 2.11 A full process review was undertaken in 2020 and a substantial effort to redesign EHC processes was completed. This included the development of a graduated response and appropriate triage process for all new EHC Assessments. This has ensured that families were appropriately tracked to assessment for an EHC Plan, where the thresholds were met where a child needs an EHC Plan.

Key Partner Improvements

- 2.12 The CCG in late 2020, recruited to the Designated Clinical Officer role to help provide additional input into the EHC planning processes and to provide overarching clinical leadership and input to the EHC Planning processes to support our improvement. A named nurse for SEND was introduced in 2019 within the local mental and community health provider Trust and the Senior Responsible Officer role for SEND within the CCG was strengthened. Two SEND clinical leads posts have been developed within the CCG.
- 2.13 Over the last 18 months, the Local Area has been proactively working with external partners such as the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) and National Development Team for Preparing for Adulthood (PA). Support and best practice has been drawn from other Local Authorities to help us know what good looks like for our services and this has led to the production of our outcomes framework, which was considered good in the inspection.

Co –production & our Improvement Programme for SEND 2022-2024 prior to the Ofsted Inspection

- 2.14 Following a review of our progress in late 2021, partners, parent / carers and young person representatives met to discuss what the next stage of our co-production and improvement activities should consider.
- 2.15 A co-produced Programme of service improvement and integration has been developed with partners across the SEND Strategic Partnership to identify areas of growth. Over **100** Professionals, Parents and Carers and Young People took part across these events called **our Open Houses** on the run up to Christmas 2021.



Figure 1 – Open House Logo, and Kala Sangam venue one of our Open House Event Venues

- 2.16 Improvement Projects were identified that include improving the family finance arrangements for families, improving the quality assurance of EHC Plans, capturing the voice of children, delivering an improved Local Offer and providing further support for Short Breaks to Bradford’s children and families. Ofsted agreed with our assessment that these areas need further work and demonstrate our commitment to improvement over the next three years.

Area 1 in the Ofsted Letter - The effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people’s SEN and/or disabilities.

SEND Support, Graduated Responses and the Matrix of Need

- 2.17 The SEND Inspection considered what support is being provided to children who are supported at the SEN Support Stage and how they are then identified for further support where they need it. Bradford has historically had higher numbers of children on SEND Support and was substantially higher than the national average. This however has been falling substantially due to the work done over the last three years by the Integrated Assessment Team and partners to identify children working with schools to get children the right support at the right time.
- 2.18 There are **12,655** children and young people who receive SEN Support across all settings in Bradford as of August 2021. This number has decreased over the last 12 months, from **13,604** in 2020 to **12,916** in Jan 2021. This is in partly due to the narrowing and increase in the numbers of children who receive an EHCP. This is also partly due to the Pandemic and a reduced throughput of new requests for SEN Support.
- 2.19 The Education Psychology team in 2019, reviewed the Bradford Matrix of Need in consultation with school leaders and Health Service Leads. The Matrix of Need was praised by Ofsted and provides clarity on the Graduated Approach and ‘Best Endeavours’ through detailing: Identification and Assessment; Curriculum Access; and Teaching and Learning Strategies. This includes promoting the use of Quality First Teaching and My Support Plans for those identified as needing SEN Support.

Community Hubs and Early Help to support early identification of SEND

- 2.20 Bradford has four Community Hubs that support prevention and early help services that are available for all babies, children, young people and families. These services provide a gateway for families in Early Years to get the support they need for SEND through early identification.
- 2.21 Ofsted met with families and professionals to discuss the hubs and found that the access to services within the hubs was too variable. This was partly due to the pandemic and some limited access to services.
- 2.22 The Local Area was able to show to Ofsted that children and their families are being identified with SEND early and that the majority of children who are being identified as needing support happens predominantly in Key Stage 1 and 2 and before they go to High School.

Youth Justice Multi Agency Panels

- 2.23 Work has been ongoing since 2020, to support young people with SEND who are known to the Youth Justice Service. Ofsted noted the good work of the multi-agency panels that support Youth Justice to capture the unmet needs of young people entering the criminal justice system. This team were able to demonstrate throughout the inspection how they support young people and how they support other services to connect with them to gain appropriate support.

Healthy Child Programme, 2 and 2 and half year-old screening and Early Years.

- 2.24 Ofsted found in their inspection that more needs to be done to fully embed the Healthy Child Programme within the District. Ofsted have issued the Local Area with a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) for this element to ensure that the inconsistent delivery of the 0-19 health visiting, school nursing and specialist nursing service is addressed.
- 2.25 The Inspection letter found that children were not routinely being screened for visual and hearing impairments as part of the Healthy Child Programme, limiting our ability to identify children who may have a hearing or visual impairment. This was in part due to the effect of the pandemic and historical challenges relating to gaps in the service.
- 2.26 The Inspection Letter also identified missed opportunities in undertaking the two and two-and-a-half-year-old checks within the Healthy Child Programme. This will need to be remedied to ensure that greater opportunities are put in place as mandated to provide greater scope to identify children with disabilities earlier in Early Years.
- 2.27 Leaders from within Public Health have created an improvement plan to address these issues. Funding of £1m has been found to improve the depth of the Healthy Child Programme offer with new vision screening and hearing teams being in place from next year to ensure these checks are being completed.

Early Years Measures to identify children with SEND

- 2.28 Ofsted praised the use of early language measures to identify children with SEND as a strength, within Early Years. Bradford was able to show that we are using these measures to help positively identify children with speech and language needs early to help provide appropriate support for them.

Initial Health Assessments and Review Health Assessments for Children in Care

- 2.29 Initial health assessments are a statutory requirement and offered to all children and young people who come into care. Health colleagues who are responsible for the Programme have been proactive in addressing our long waits for an IHA over the last 12 months. Ofsted reported that this was an area of improvement that the Local Area needs to improve on. Health colleagues are aware that the assessment compliance rates for completion within **20** days are not being achieved and a steering group has been established to address this.
- 2.30 Additional investment has been made by the CCG to support work to address the high numbers of children waiting for an initial health assessment which has resulted in the development and introduction of a new clinical model during 2021.
- 2.31 The average time for a child to receive their initial health assessment has decreased significantly from **170** days in January 2021 to **40** days currently in August 2022.

Review Health Assessments

- 2.32 Ofsted noted that children wait too long or not offered a review health assessment by health professionals in Bradford. Work is being done by Health Professionals to ensure more young people in care are receiving these assessments and a pathway is being reviewed by health to improve this area.

Area 2- The effectiveness of the local area in meeting the needs of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities

Supporting Families through recovery groups in the Pandemic.

- 2.33 Ofsted considered the work of the Local Authority with schools during the pandemic as a strength where children with SEND were supported.
- 2.34 Local Recovery groups also supported access to digital devices and support worked well in partnership during the first 12 months of the pandemic in particular. School leaders commented that this helped them meet the needs of children with SEND during a challenging time for schools.

Considerations relating to the numbers of children being assessed for an EHC Plan in Bradford

- 2.35 Ofsted noted and observed the number of children being requested to be assessed for an EHC plan and that numbers of children in the system have been rising substantially over the last 4 years. In 2021 during the Pandemic, Bradford saw the highest rate of requests for an EHC Plan in the past 4 years, with **1058** new requests for assessment being recorded. This figure is an increase of **48%** since 2018. We also reported that we are expecting a further **10%** increase in 2022, with an estimated **1200** new requests for assessment being made to the Integrated Assessment Teams in 2022/2023.
- 2.36 Ofsted in their report letter noted that in our SEND panels, that Children and Young People are beginning to benefit from our multi-lingual approaches to meet their needs and that this is improving the accuracy of assessments.
- 2.37 In order to address this, a restructure to increase the size of the integrated assessment team from 14 EHC Plan Writers to 21 EHC Plan Writers has been agreed. These new post holders are expected to be in post by February / March 2023.

Numbers of children being issued with an Education, Health and Care Plan

- 2.38 In Bradford, we have seen an increase in the numbers of children with an EHC Plan from **3,441** in December 2019 to **5,286** in September 2022. This has equated to a rise of **53%** in the last three years.

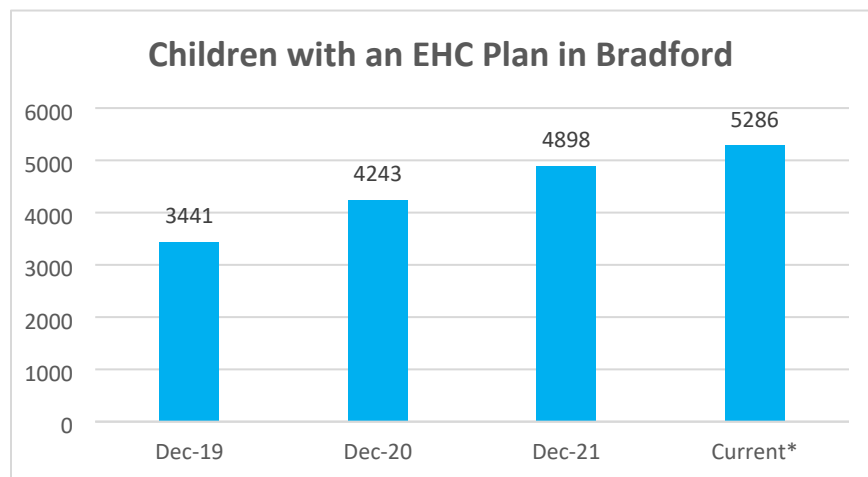


Figure 2 - Number of Children with an EHCP 2019-2022

Education Psychology support for EHC Plans

- 2.39 Ofsted found in the inspection our Educational Psychology service to be an area of strength in both the quality of advice and the timeliness of advice into EHC Plan development. Regulators found that Educational Psychology that thresholds for children are understood and applied correctly in their assessments and recommendations.

Social Care Advice in EHC Plans

- 2.40 Ofsted found that EHC Plans do not accurately contain Social Care interventions being recorded in the sample cases that were reviewed by Inspectors. The Local Area and Head of SEND had reviewed this area prior to the inspection and a programme of improvement starting with all children who are on the edge of care has been completed. Further thematic reviews of all children in care is being completed currently, working alongside our DFE improvement partner Warrington Council.
- 2.41 The Governments SEND Green Paper is now advocating to make mandatory the Designated Social Care Officer role (DSCO) that will mirror the work of the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO). A proposal has been approved to develop a team that will ensure that all social care input is provided to help address the gap identified by ourselves and Ofsted. This work with Children's Social Care is ongoing and this new team is expected to be in post by January 2023.
- 2.42 To help support this area of development within Education and Learning, we are proposing to create a new complex and vulnerable case team. This team will hold the most complex cases where children are on social care plans. (Children in Care, Child Protection, Child in Need) This will help to ensure all of this cohort of children's plans are up to date and have accurate interventions that are connected within them. The new team is expected to be in post by January / February 2023.

Health Advice in EHC Plans

- 2.43 Ofsted found that EHC Plans do not accurately contain Health Care advice or interventions recorded on their files across the files that were reviewed by Inspectors.
- 2.44 A plan of review of all EHC Plans is underway by the Designated Clinical Officer. This is being done in tandem with the updating and the access of health to all files by the DCO that relate to SEND.

Children being issued with an Education, Health and Care Plan within 20 weeks

- 2.45 We were able to report to Ofsted that, compliance relating to the timeliness of the issuing of Education Health and Care plans within 20 weeks, has been improving since March 2020. Bradford is currently above the national average that was reported on in 2021.
- 2.46 Over the last rolling 12 months, the highest compliance figure for issuing plans in 20 weeks has been **88%** in May 2022 and the lowest has been **53%** in January 2022. Our rolling year to date compliance is **77%** which is above the target set of **65%**. In the national league tables for compliance Bradford has moved up from **109th** nationally two years ago to **52nd** this year.

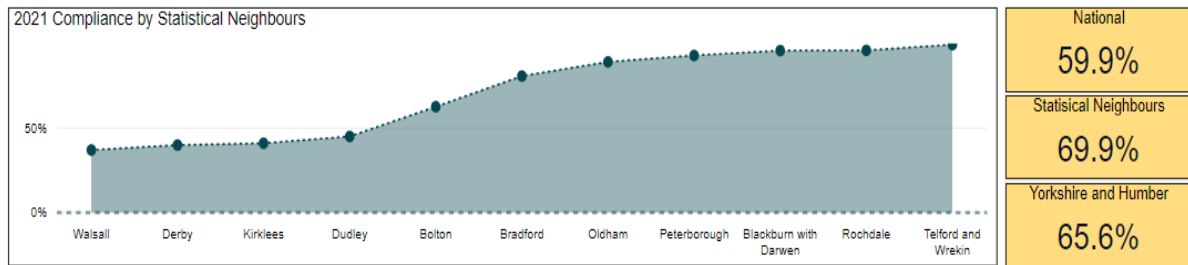


Figure 3 – EHC Compliance percentage / statistical neighbours

Annual Reviews of Education, Health and Care Plans

- 2.47 EHC Plans are required to have an annual review to ensure that plans still meet the needs of children and ensure that progress is being made towards outcomes. These take place for pupils who are not changing school and those in transition to either secondary or further education. Ofsted praised the work of the new team working with Social Workers to do Child in Need (CIN) plan reviews at the same time. This has created a tell us once approach that was identified as positively supporting children and families during the inspection.
- 2.48 All of our phase transfers were completed by the statutory deadlines during the academic year 2020/21 and 2021/22, but it is estimated that around **2,800** of our plans will need to be amended over the next 12-18 months. This is primarily due to the substantial volume of new plans that the Local Authority have issued over the last three years and those that will go through key transitions such as going to secondary schools and colleges.
- 2.49 We created a recovery plan prior to the inspection, to improve the timeliness and quality of Annual Reviews. Within this plan, we have recruited an Annual Review Recovery Team through agency staff to start to clear the Annual Review backlog.
- 2.50 As part of the changes that will be required, we have committed to creating a new permanent Annual Review Team which will be up and running by January / February 2023.

Quality Assuring our EHC Plans & the development of the Complex Panel

- 2.51 Substantial effort has gone into assuring the quality of our work over the last 18 months across the Partnership. We have started to develop auditing and assurance systems to ensure that the quality of advice from across partners is improving.
- 2.52 The Local Area has drafted a Quality Assurance Framework for the partnership working with Warrington Council, that will set out the overarching approach to providing audit feedback and advice. This is scheduled to be launched by November 2022.
- 2.53 We will be recruiting a small independent group of auditors in October 2022, to help drive up quality through independent auditing for EHC Plans that will be fed back to the SEND Strategic Partnership Board. This team is expected to be launched in January 2023.

- 2.54 Ofsted have issued the Local Area with a Written Statement of Action for this element, to ensure that the quality of EHC Plans improves and accurately describes the needs of children moving forward. Our proposals contained in this section have been considered by regulators to be appropriate, to improve these areas and to meet the written statements requirements.

Coproduction and Engagement in Bradford

- 2.55 Co-production in Bradford has made significant progress in the last 18 months. This pace of change has been through the changes in leadership across the partnership and a positive approach to working together with parent's carers and children.
- 2.56 There is evidence of strong willingness and enthusiasm and some areas of good practice in coproduction, which have been recognised both within Bradford, Ofsted and externally by other agencies as strong foundations to build upon our wider systems change. This is particularly true in the case of the role of the Parent Carers Association who were considered a strength in championing the involvement of parents and carers.

Coproduction with the Council for Disabled Children

- 2.57 Bradford Council has commissioned work with the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) which was approved the DfE in 2020. The first set of sessions took place in June and July 2020 which constituted a deep dive into Coproduction and Joint Commissioning with a focus on developing our initial outcomes framework. Further sessions took place in March 2021 with over **70** professional and parent carer representatives to look at embedding the Outcomes Framework across the Local Area.

Coproduction of Short Breaks for children with EHC Plans

- 2.58 Bradford's Short Breaks Statement has also been reviewed and co-produced in 2021 as part of our SEND Improvement works. Ofsted noted in the Inspection that the Local Authority has recently increased the amount of support it will be providing to families to access short breaks, although the access to these is variable and some families are having to wait too long to access these currently. This is partly due to capacity restrictions imposed by Covid 19 in some settings.
- 2.59 In order to meet our demand, a new dedicated non-social work team has been recruited, who will provide an additional needs led assessment for all children with a disability in the Bradford District who are not currently known to Social Care. The new service will oversee all assessments and re-assessments, for all short breaks for children without a social worker in Bradford. We are already working with **100** families and anticipate that we will be providing an extra **750** short breaks for children and families by the summer of 2024.

The Voice of Children and Young Person Engagement across Bradford

- 2.60 Currently in Bradford, we do not have a directly or indirectly elected body of young people (i.e. a SEND Youth Council or Youth Mayor) to help shape and guide our SEND journey from a young person's perspective.
- 2.61 The Young Persons Voice Project is focusing on creating the infrastructure to capture the voice of young people through a locally designed model of participation and governance for our children with SEND. We want them to be able to have their say and hold systems leaders accountable, for improving the wider systems and services relating to SEND.
- 2.62 We are co-producing this model working across our local area. We have already set up a multi group design board and hope to be able to report on our model in the Autumn. Ofsted noted the work on their visit and highlighted that this work is still in the design stage. We will launch this new model in the spring of 2023.

Communicating with Parents and Carers

- 2.63 Historically, Bradford partners have not fully understood the needs of families and children in regards to SEND services across the District. Across the Inspection, over 650 families who historically have had statements and EHC Plans, contacted Ofsted to note that the delivery of the reforms were not always fully understood by partner agencies in Bradford.
- 2.64 Ofsted in their inspection letter, referenced further work that is needed to be done to work collaboratively with parents and carers. We have made substantial progress in this area over the last 3 years with our co-production and engagement work, but more is needed to be done given the increase in children who have EHC plans in Bradford compared to 3 years ago.
- 2.65 Proposals to increase the size of the Integrated Assessment function will help with improving communication to ensure that parents are contacted in a timelier manner. Overall with the staffing increases proposed, we can expect to see timeliness of responses improve to parents and carers. We will be publishing a new charter of responsiveness standards for families and partners to help improve communication so that, parents will know when they can expect to be updated around support for their children.
- 2.66 Bradford have introduced a new portal for use to apply for EHC Plans in April of last year. The Portal allows for professionals and parents to upload key documents to the plan processes. Over the last 9 months over **650** new requests for an EHC plan have been made through the portal.
- 2.67 The portal is still in the process of going fully live with all its functionality. We are also going to be launching the new Annual Review portal in late 2022 & early 2023. This will make it easier for parents to see what stage of the processes their children and families' members are and keep them informed on progress.

Communicating with Schools

- 2.68 Ofsted met with 8 schools and with representatives of school leaders across the Inspection. School Leaders asked it to be noted that a more collaborative approach would be welcomed moving forward, particularly in relation to the development of school place planning.
- 2.69 The Local Area is committed to working strategically with our schools on this issue. Bradford has provided over **1000** extra special school places in the last few years and is committed to creating in excess of **240** new specialist places to support rising demand. A strategic plan has been created and shared with Schools Forum to support better understanding of the work being done by the Local Authority to meet the rising demand for places moving forward.
- 2.70 Schools raised throughout the inspection that the consultation processes for EHC places can be frustrating. We agree with our schools that the balance of parental preferences and case law in some circumstances can be challenging. Within the new SEND Green Paper there will be a national response to some of these challenges with the publication of a local inclusion plan. This will set out what schools are available in a local area that can meet the needs of children. We will see where Bradford can be a national lead in this area, so that we can simplify the process for both parents and schools.
- 2.71 Ofsted have issued the Local Area with a Written Statement of Action for this element, to ensure that better communication within these groups takes place overall. We are confident with the steps we have outlined, that this will improve over the next two years. We are introducing a survey to check this is the case with parents and schools so we can alter our approaches where required.

The Local Offer

- 2.72 Our Local Offer has been subject to substantial improvements over the last three years since its launch seven years ago. The site has been strongly influenced by the views of children and young people who have given a continued level of commitment to the Local Offer.

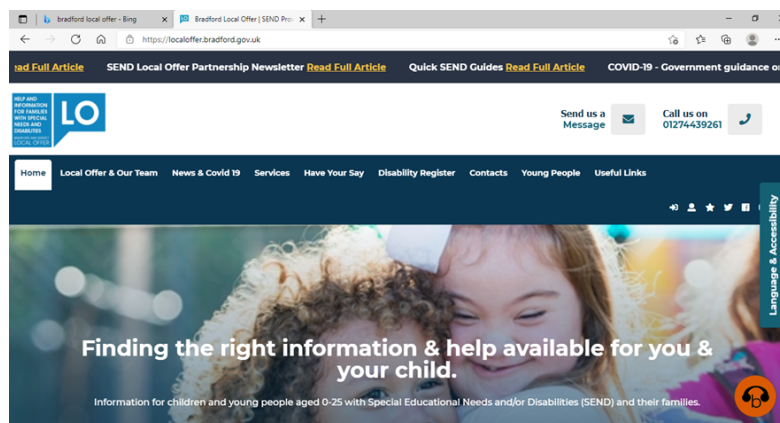


Figure 4 Our Local Offer in Bradford

- 2.73 We are now looking forward to making changes to the Local Offer Website as we undertake revised commercial contracting arrangements for the website. We are also seeking to prioritise the evolution of the content in line with the development of the new Family Information Services website that is currently being developed.
- 2.74 The Local Area is considering changing the look and feel of the website as part of the Local Offer website refresh project that is being undertaken that is scheduled to be concluded in the summer of next year.
- 2.75 Due to the impact of the pandemic some of our **700** services have struggled to keep their information up to date. We acknowledge this as reported by Ofsted and are working with some providers to update their content throughout the next 3 months.

School Transport

- 2.76 Children who we identified as being eligible to receive support, receive appropriate travel arrangements. Any child or young person identified as being eligible is provided with appropriate travel arrangements based on their identified needs. The Passenger Transport Service (PTS) transport is provided in accordance with the statutory requirements, the Council's policy and the DfE guidance.
- 2.77 We accept as noted in the Ofsted Inspection that there are substantial demands for our transport services and this is causing operational challenges. A transformation programme and roadmap for school transport has been agreed initially by the Transport Board and changes are to be developed for consideration in the late Autumn.

Access to Health Services for children with SEND

- 2.78 Ofsted noted during the inspection that health professionals had worked tirelessly and above what can be expected, to juggle the demands of the pandemic and providing support to all children and adults during the last 2 years.
- 2.79 Ofsted noted however, that access to treatments remains challenging across the Local Area and that children and families have to wait too long from referral to treatment (RTT) for some services. Under the NHS Constitution services are meant to be provided within 18 weeks of a referral being made to when treatment starts.
- 2.80 As a result of these challenges, Ofsted and the CQC have issued key healthcare services that provide support to children and families with a Written Statement of Action (WSOA).
- 2.81 A plan to improve access to health services for children with SEND will be published in October 2022 setting out the work that will be undertaken to address the waits, and support that is required.

Joint Commissioning for SEND Services

- 2.82 Joint Commissioning is an area of growth that the Local Area will be required to place a substantial focus throughout the next 18 months.
- 2.83 Joint Commissioning of services to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND is not yet embedded across the Local Area. We have though made an encouraging start in the joint funding of the Parent Carers Association (PCA and the Joint Commissioning of SENDIASS services.
- 2.84 As a result Ofsted have issued a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) for Joint Commissioning given the current maturity of these arrangements. One area identified within the SEND Inspection identified for example is a lack of resource and signing clubs for children who are deaf. The Local Area is now working with key school leaders who support Deaf Children to design a new set of arrangements to meet the needs of this group of children.
- 2.85 During 2020, The Local Area Co-produced our new SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy (2020-2023). Within the Strategy, we have identified a number of key areas and identified how we currently commission and wish to commission services in the future. This is now providing the impetus to help provide a strategic commissioning set of arrangements, that we wish to further develop over the course of this Strategy lifecycle.
- 2.86 In line with the national agendas relating to the changes to CCG's and the move towards Integrated Commissioning Board models, we hope to have designed and implemented a model for joint and strategic commissioning by the summer of 2023. This will consider and in all likelihood see greater alignment and potential pooling of budgets with Health along with the creation of a provider alliance for SEND Services by the start of the 2023/2024 financial year.

Area 3 - The effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities

Preparation for Adulthood

- 2.87 The Preparation for Adulthood team are based within children's social care, and are made up of social workers, community support workers and occupational therapists. The team seeks to ensure that young people aged 16 -25 with physical or learning disabilities have targeted support to meet their aspirations.
- 2.88 Ofsted praised the work of this service and that in the last 3 years the team have also helped **683** young people with the most complex disabilities transition successfully into adult services. The majority of young people who are supported by the PfA team will need some form of support from adult services and they are supported to do so through transition Care Act assessments and by successful joined up working with adult social care teams.
- 2.89 Ofsted recognised that Since 2019, the PFA team have helped **50** young people to move out of their family home into suitable independent and supported living

arrangements. In some cases, this has meant that young people have stayed in Bradford rather than having to move to expensive out of area accommodation arrangements. The team over the last 3 years have also helped **260** young people with access to personalised transitions support direct payments. These are used for a variety of support that include PA support around independence and self-care.

Bradford Family Leadership Programme

- 2.90 Following feedback from over 400 families and professionals gained via focus groups and listening events alongside a PfA audit, we identified that; there is a lack of awareness and understanding about the support and options a family can receive. This includes, employment, housing, short breaks and transition support in Bradford.
- 2.91 Our response to this was to create the Bradford's Family Leadership Programme. The Programme aims to ensure that parents and carers are well informed about these opportunities, promoting the importance of planning for adulthood as early as possible (Year 9 at the latest), following a person centred approach, allowing the PfA priorities in Bradford Council's SEND Strategy for CYP 2018 -2022 to be achieved.

Destinations of young people in Bradford

- 2.92 Destinations information is a key source of understanding what life training and employment route our young people take. In Bradford we are proud of collaborative works we have done with colleges and FE providers to provide the best opportunities we can for your young people with SEND.
- 2.93 Ofsted were shown the evidence that our figures compare broadly with the England and Yorkshire and Humber averages. In August 2022, the percentage of 16-17 year olds Participating in Learning was **88%**, compared to **84%** in March 2020. These figures are slightly above Regional figures **86.1%** and National figures **86.3%**.
- 2.94 Our figures for children where we do not know their college place are **1.8%** (not known) are lower than national figures (**2.0%**). This is positive in that it confirms that we are better at knowing what our young people are doing.

Supported Interns needs

- 2.95 Ofsted noted that the numbers of Supported Interns have grown year on year, averaging **8** in 2018/2019, **19** in 2019/2021 and **40** in 2020/2021. In July 2021, **4.7%** (51/1093) of our 16-25 EHCP cohort on a Supported Internship. In January 2021, Bradford ranked the **9th highest** proportionally against all other local authorities in our Supported Intern numbers.

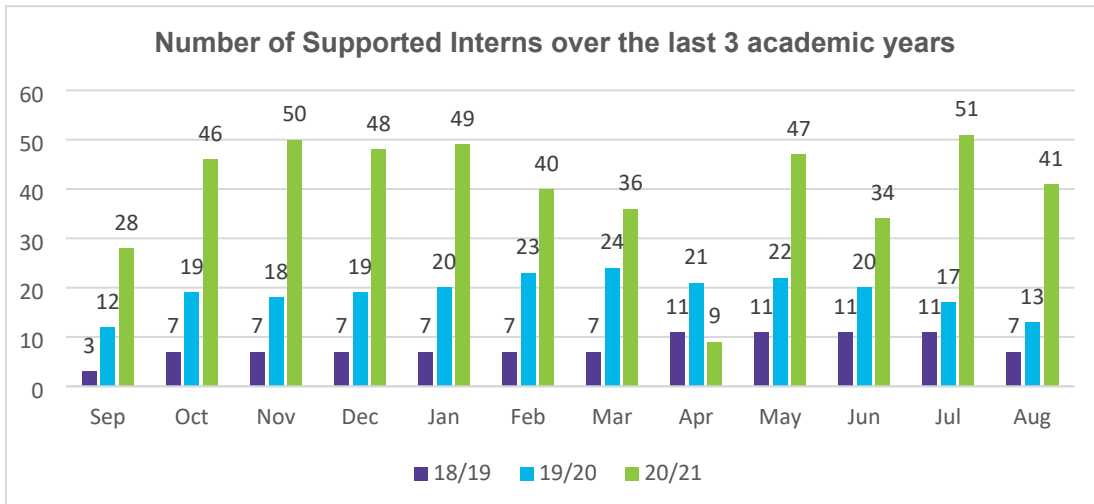


Figure 5 – Number of Supported Interns over the last 3 academic years

Into-Employment Programmes

- 2.96 Ofsted noted as a strength, the substantial work done in Bradford to narrow the gap between percentage of young people with learning disabilities entering paid employment in Bradford and England.
- 2.97 Ofsted also reported that the figures from the DfE’s quarterly comparison data confirm that we have been successful in developing Supported Internship opportunities. Bradford are committed in growing the opportunities for those with a learning disability, the local area now has 5 Supported Internship providers (both Shipley & Keighley college, Project Search out of Bradford College, Craven Cottage and Mencap).

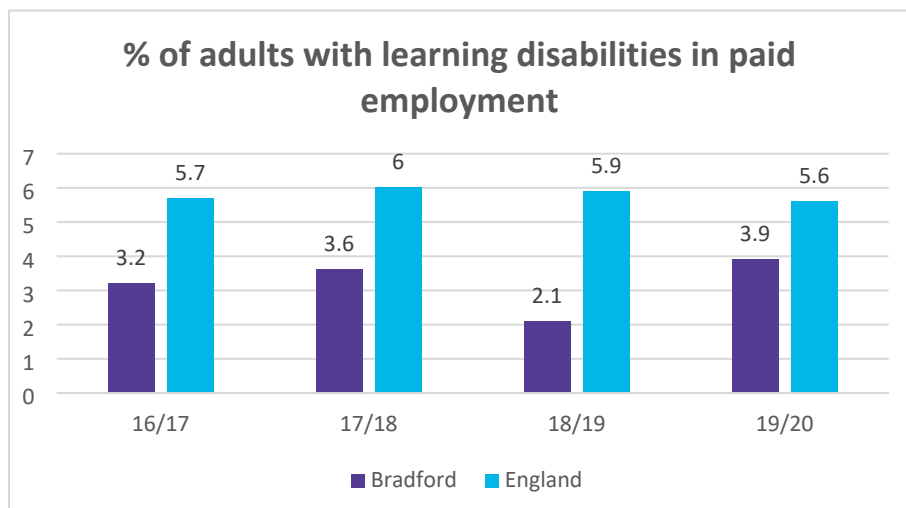


Figure 6 - % of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment

Academic Progress for Children with SEND - Level 2 Qualifications for young people with SEND and SEND Support

- 2.98 There is an ongoing Vulnerable Young Person’s review, which defines a vulnerable young learner as someone who is at risk of not attaining Level 2 qualifications by the

age of 16. Ofsted reported that we need to do more to support greater understanding and develop greater approaches to support children at KS4 get better outcomes and also to commission a better understanding of progress by children on SEND Support.

2.99 According to the latest UK Government data, **27%** of young people in the Bradford District reach the age of 19 without attaining a level 2 qualification. This is lower than their national counterparts (**17%**) and we are undertaking a vulnerable person review to help address this.

2.100 The purpose of the Vulnerable Young Person's Project, is to review the current picture, including the breadth, range and quality of vocational educational pathway routes available for vulnerable young learners in the Bradford District. Work with the specialist teaching team is underway and each school has now been provided with a named teacher moving forward. Students have in Bradford stabilised over the last three years with an improvement in young people gaining Level 2 qualifications including English and maths.

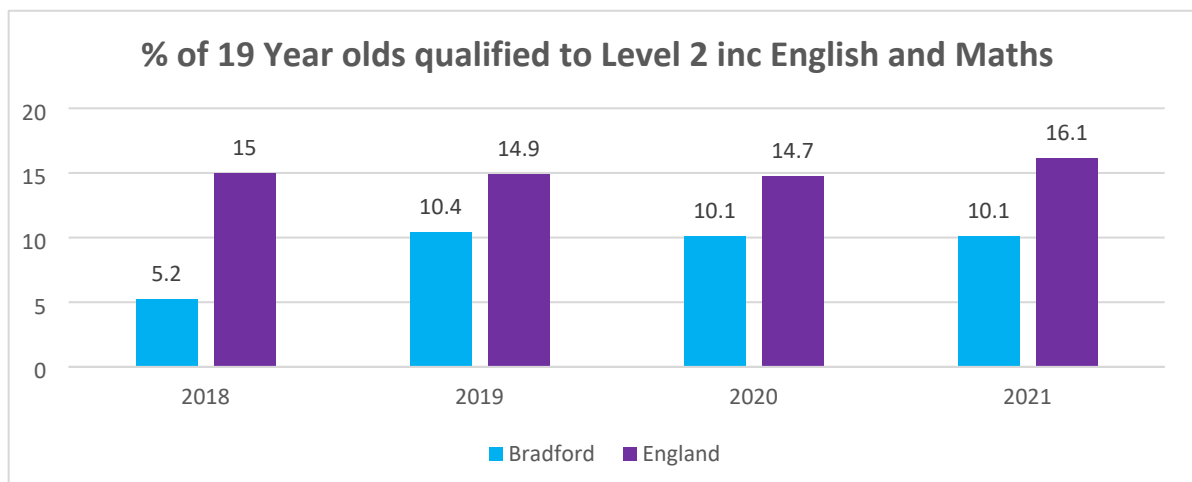


Figure 7 – L2 Qualifications

Level 3 Qualifications for young people with SEND and SEND Support

2.101 The number of students in our area moving onto **Key Stage 5** is in line with national averages. The % of CYP in Bradford aged 19 with an EHCP qualified to Level 3 has been well below National averages since 2017/18 academic year although this has been rising due to further engagement works and use of dedicated resources over the course of the pandemic. Further work is continuing with the specialist resources team to continue to improve the % of children with EHC plans who get a Level 3 qualification.

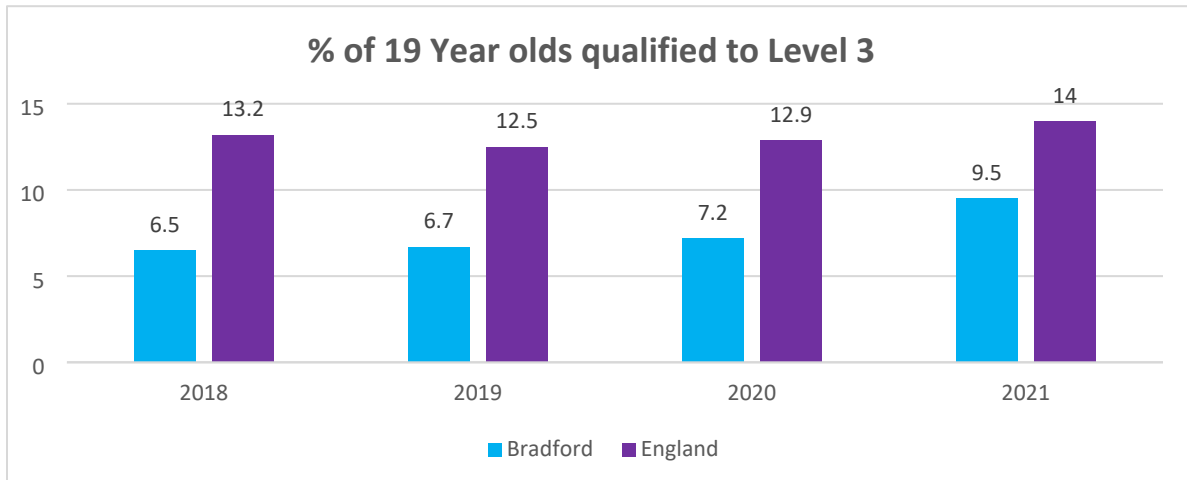


Figure 8 – L3 Qualifications

Supporting children with an EHCP who are at risk of Exclusion /Suspension

- 2.104 Ofsted positively praised that in the last three years, there have only been **2** permanent exclusions for children with SEND in 2018/2019 and none since that academic year. Overall in the last three-year period, we have seen a reduction on the numbers of children being excluded in our schools. These children are supported by our Exclusions team who work with schools and families to reduce the risk of exclusions for children with an EHC Plan.
- 2.105 Following the 2018-2019 academic year, The Bradford exclusions team have developed a process where if schools are concerned about pupils being at risk of permanent exclusion, then the Exclusions team with our SEN colleagues will do proactive work with the school and families to support the child.
- 2.106 This has proven successful and in the last two academic years no child has been permanently excluded from a school in Bradford.

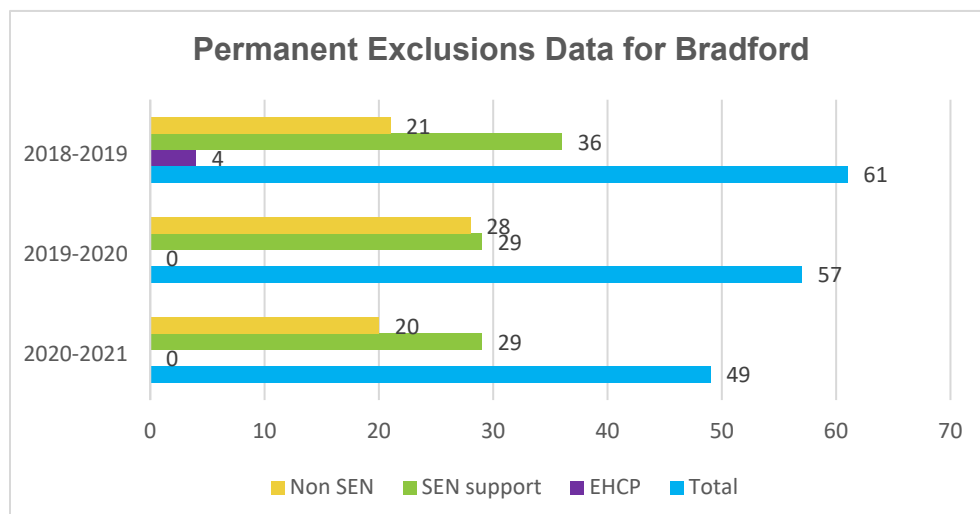


Figure 9 – EHC Exclusions data

2.109 Work is still required across the Local Area to support young people who are being suspended across schools, as too many young people are suspended where they have SEND. Ofsted noted that work will be required to support both pupils and schools moving forward to help reduce these numbers. A new SEND Inclusion charter mark is being developed by the Council working with Warrington Council to be consulted on with schools over the next academic year to promote inclusion to reduce suspensions.

Conclusions

2.110 Overall, substantial improvements have been made to support families and children with SEND in Bradford despite substantial rising demand for services over the last three years.

2.111 Building on these improvements, further work will be required over a variety of areas as outlined in this report to provide the types of services our families will require over the next few years.

2.112 Designated Directors will be required to update the Department for Education and NHS England on a 90-day basis on progress being made against the Written Statements of Action through their improvement plans.

2.113 The following Directors will be statutorily responsible for progress and will update Overview and Scrutiny on the progress via the SEND WSOA Improvement Plan. This improvement Plan will be shared with this board following agreement on the key areas as required by Ofsted.

Written Statement Area	Named Statutory Director
WSOA 1 Poor Communication between stakeholders	Niall Devlin Assistant Director SEND and Inclusion BDMC
WSOA 2 the variable quality of EHC Plans	Niall Devlin Assistant Director SEND and Inclusion BDMC
WSOA 3 – Inconsistent Delivery of The Healthy Child Programme	Sarah Muckle Director of Public Health BDMC
WSOA 4 – Appropriate and Timely Access to all Health Services that Support SEND	Melanie Pickup Chief Executive Bradford District Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust
WSOA 5 – Joint Commissioning of SEND Services	Jane Wood Assistant Director of Commissioning BDMC

2.114 The Designated LA Officer for SEND will co-ordinate the improvement planning and has contacted key partners on the types of information and measurement that will be required, having experience of completing this work and supporting the lifting of a previous LA from a Written Statement of Action.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There are no further considerations that Overview and Scrutiny are asked to consider at this time.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

The financial request implications in this report at this stage are not requested to be approved. This will be done in line with the Local Authority and Statutory Partner Agency boards for approval of increasing resources.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The challenges outlined in this report are being tracked through the SSPB Programme and being considered by the SSPB Board. Risks are being managed through the governance arrangements for each respecting statutory authority involved in SEND service delivery,

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

The Local Area will be required to create an Improvement Plan within 70 days of the receipt of the inspection letter. This will be ratified by each host agency where they are the statutory improvement agency for the required improvement.

There are no direct legal requirements in regards to this report, outside of the statutory framework for SEND as mandated in the Children and Families Act 2014.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no direct impacts from the contents of this report relating to Green House Gas Emissions.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no community safety implications bearing from the contents of this report.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Provision of Services for SEND operate within a complex legal framework that is set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 that considers HRA requirements in its provisions.

7.5 TRADE UNIONS

There are no direct HR implications in this report for consideration at this stage. Future changes to structures will be reviewed through OJC, officer and constitutional gateways.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct ward implications for this report.

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The report does not directly relate to Children in Care, the report references some children who are looked after as part of this report. A specific update on this is to be scheduled at a later date.

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

A Privacy Impact Assessment was published as part of the public recommendations that were contained in the setting of the 2022/2023 budget relating to Short Breaks.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

There are no not for publication aspects to this report.

9. OPTIONS

There are no direct recommendations in this report. The report has been created to update members on SEND Services in the Bradford District. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the contents of the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to consider the contents of the report.

11. APPENDICES

There are no appendices to this report.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

There are no background documents