

# Agenda Item 11.

**TITLE:** **Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reform – Implementation Board**

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 July 2015

**WARD** None Specific

**DIRECTOR** Judith Ramsden, Director Children’s Services

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

The delivery of the SEND reforms for WBC has ensured that all children and young people and their families benefit from the new legislation within the Childrens Act at the earliest opportunity. The new scope of Education Health and Care plans with provision identified up to the age of 25 for learners with SEN and disabilities enables effective planning and transition to adult support services. Access to provider information via the Local Offer has engaged a range of Alternative Providers who are now represented on the WBC website. Engagement with the community has enabled parents, carers and the children and young people themselves to fully engage with the process and influence their own plans and programmes.

Feedback from agencies, schools and service users have been very positive about the new EHCP meetings noting that they are far more holistic and pertinent to each child or young person. Formal qualitative evaluations of this are now being undertaken to provide an evidenced audit trail of impact and performance.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the progress made in the SEND implementation be acknowledged and further supported throughout the next cycle.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The report outlines the key work strands undertaken by WBC in the delivery of the SEND reforms and the progress made within each. The approach taken has received excellent feedback from the allocated DfE SEN Officer in both inspection visits held this academic year. We have hit all key deadlines for the activities.

## **Background**

WBC established a multi-agency working party across children and adult services to plan and deliver the reforms required within the SEND element of the Childrens Act 2014. Alongside this a commissioning group headed by the Assistant Director for Commissioning Children and Adult Services operated as a quality and project control board.

We are in the second year of operation with the DfE acknowledging that there is a requirement for a third year of implementation to ensure that the reforms are embedded across the country.

Despite this extension there is no commitment at this time for an extension of the SEND grant which has facilitated the activities successfully undertaken in Wokingham.

## **Analysis of Issues**

- Timings of transfer meetings where conversion of previous statements to the new EHC Plans – the transfer meetings have been scheduled according to year group priority. There has been some delay to this as the meetings themselves are thorough but time consuming. Additional staff have been appointed funded through the SEND Implementation Grant and an allocation from Schools Forum. However, both these funding streams cease as of the end of this academic year and so staff contracts will cease.
- Personal Budgets – the DfE SEN Advisors are themselves unclear about how the operation of PBs should occur and what is in scope of such budgets. This has impacted upon the development and implementation of PBs across the country. WBC has a focus group working on this currently.
- Increase in number of EHC assessment requests from parents to the SEN team. The publication and information around the new SEND reforms has raised awareness and this could be a factor in the increase in requests for assessment.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

*The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)			
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

**Cross-Council Implications** (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

### Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

### List of Background Papers

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<b>Date</b> 09.07.15.	<b>Version No.</b> 1

## **SEND Implementation Project Report**

### **Introduction:**

In preparation for the Children and Families Act 2014 Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) considered its readiness to implement the SEND Reforms within the Act from September 2014, by responding to the DfE Readiness Survey in July 2013.

The Pan Berkshire Group “Raising Participation Partnership” worked with the 6 Unitary Authorities in Berkshire through 2013/14 as the work that it had lead on, on behalf of the Local Authorities for Post 16 provision was due to be subsumed back into LA responsibility with the reforms introduced by the Children and Families Act.

In September 2013: An extended SEND Reform working group was established in WBC, this met fortnightly, with sponsorship from Assistant Director- Learning and Achievement, membership consisted of representatives from Adult and Children’s Social Care, SEN, Educational Psychology, Schools Finance, Corporate Communications, Data, Parent Partnership, Parent Carer Forum, and working groups established with leads identified for each key strand of the Reforms.

The 6 work strands: Engaging Parents and Young People, Local Offer; Education, Health and Care (EHC) Assessment and EHC Plans; Pathways to Adulthood, Personal Budgets, and Joint Commissioning. The summary of each of the work strands is detailed on the table from page 2. The following dates outline the dissemination of the SEND Reforms work to a wider audience.

APRIL '14 - Wokingham established a SEND Reform project group meeting, fortnightly – sponsored by Brian Grady on behalf of CSLT with membership including the service manager for Social Inclusion, Principal Educational Psychologist, SEN team manager, and the project manager.

FEB/APRIL '14 - Easthampstead Park Conference launched The SEND Reforms to schools

JULY '14 - Headliners Event for Young People

SEPT '14 - Can Day for Parents, Carers and Young people in Wokingham

SEPT '14 SEND Reform whole day training to SENCo’s in Wokingham maintained schools and half-day training to agency partners – social care, other education partners and health colleagues.

<b>Work Strands</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Successes</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
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<p><b>Engaging Parents and Young People</b> Co-production with Parents (Info, Advice and Support)</p> <p>In collaboration with REACH Parent Group</p> <p>Voice of the Child/Young Person</p>	<p><b>Phil Cullimore</b></p> <p><b>Julie Monahan (REACH)</b></p> <p><b>Jodie Reichelt</b></p>	<p>Co-production with REACH involved throughout project</p> <p>Successful co-production of SEND implementation with SENDIASS /REACH /IS to provide Independent support for the EHCP Process</p> <p>WBC accepted as part of pilot DfE project to extend Tribunal remit to include social care and health disagreements</p> <p>Young persons' forum met and gave views which were written up into a report – along with the Headliners video</p>	<p>Continued co-production with parents supported by SENDIASS, REACH and Independent Support</p> <p>Involving SENDIASS to support parent and young people's understanding/engagement Training for parents/carers and young people to prepare them for new process</p> <p>Evaluation of parents and young people who have had an EHC assessment from September 2014 – July 2015</p> <p>CSLT and Members to view and approve for wider distribution including putting on the Local Offer</p>
<p><b>New EHC Assessment Process</b></p>	<p><b>Clare De Meyer</b></p>	<p>An EHC Co-ordinator meets with every family prior to Panel considering whether to undertake EHC Assessment. This is to ensure that families' views have contributed in full at the earliest stage in decision making</p> <p>Training to all WBC SENCo's, Health and other educational professionals</p> <p>Culture shift: Aspirations/Outcome focussed and 'person centred', revised report format from professionals</p>	<p>Future expectations that schools / SENDIASS / Independent Support will complete assessment profile reducing time spent repeating history with parents</p> <p>Further training planned for Independent and special school SENCo's. Further training planned for Paediatricians, CAMHS professionals and therapists</p> <p>Embedding culture shift / new methodology with SENCO's – continued embedding at SENCO</p>

		<p>The introduction of a graduated response to support children and young people with exceptional needs through early intervention by schools using the exceptional needs funding process which provides flexible funding to schools through a Cluster Moderation model approach Social Care identification of innovation bid for social care move into graduated response / early input / think family / ASSIST intervention / Signs of Safety</p> <p>Within the 1<sup>st</sup> term 60 EHC Assessments requested 70 Transfer Reviews attended</p>	<p>network</p> <p>Review of Exceptional Needs Funding process. Visit/contact other LA's with established systems for early intervention funding systems to share and develop good practice on devolving top-up funding for mainstream provision in schools</p>
<b>Joint Commissioning</b>	<b>Brian Grady</b>	<p>WBC participation in Pan-Berkshire development of all work strands within SEND Reforms</p> <p>West of berks work commenced on aligned Joint Commissioning Strategies</p> <p>A Pan-Berkshire Joint Commissioning group now meets each month and includes representation from CCG/Health providers to consider joint commissioning of therapies and services</p> <p>Different options re transport arrangements being discussed including independent travel training/specialist training for providers on ASD and other needs</p>	<p>Wokingham Children's Partnership to agree a Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children with Disability by October 2015</p>

		Participation in Joint commissioning post 16 regional funding/provider group and 'Valuing Care', reviewing FE provision and costings.	
<b>Local Offer</b>	<b>Elaine Munro</b>	<p>Engagement of multi-agency/external agency (schools / FE / health providers) in contributing information to Local Offer</p> <p>Fully involved in Pan-Berkshire production of work stream plan</p> <p>Local Offer now includes Section 4 list of DfE recognised education providers (schools/FE)</p>	<p>Post 16 and FE information Now on local offer.</p> <p>Develop of policy for criteria for service providers to be included on WBC Local Offer</p>
<b>Technical Lead</b>	<b>Vanessa Walters</b>	<p>WBC were very fortunate to have an identified expert within the LA with an understanding of Open Objects and Wokingham were able to deliver the Local Offer against 1<sup>st</sup> September timeframe</p> <p>Schools supported this by being provided with a template which met the regulations required within the COP regarding the school's SEN report and information</p>	<p>Activate rate and review to Local Offer, once our terms and conditions policy has been checked and agreed by our Shared Legal Solutions department.</p> <p>Publish report on feedback from users in September 2015</p> <p>Jun/July - To get schools to review their Local Offer a year on</p> <p>Produce and distribute postcards and posters with information about the Local Offer and promote through:</p> <p>WBC's Facebook, Twitter, Grapevine, Newsletters – CAN, Children's Services, Buzz, Voluntary groups, Healthwatch, local community</p>

		<p>Development of the Preparing for Adulthood Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Social Care</li> <li>• Independent living</li> </ul> <p>Working with the equivalent adults team to ensure that young people transitioning into adulthood are directed into the appropriate areas of the adult directory.</p> <p>Used the SouthEast7 – Preparing for Adulthood guide to check the information Wokingham does and doesn't have within the directory.</p> <p>Development of directory areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>• Schools and Special Educational Needs section. Including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Glossary</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>groups Outreach visits including local events, meeting with providers and parents, local colleges and schools</p> <p>Open Objects to create a Local Offer form for childminders.</p> <p>Further development of these sections still required. Work with other teams and organisation to ensure we cover all appropriate areas under the guide. This will include ensuring there is adequate information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involving young people in planning and determining their future</li> <li>• Finding employment</li> <li>• Finding somewhere to live</li> <li>• Social and Community life</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Start to develop the following sections:</li> <li>• Short Breaks</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Social Care</li> </ul> <p>Data within directory to be integrated into the new seamless look website and directory. Adult Social Care have already gone down this route</p> <p>Update directory sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment</li> </ul>
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<b>Preparing for Adulthood</b>	<b>Lisa Hay</b>	<p>Pathway to adulthood social care assessment paperwork being aligned</p> <p>Transition pathway flowchart developed</p> <p>Agreement to attend all yr9 reviews by transition social care worker</p> <p>PFA social care assessment paperwork piloted</p> <p>Young person engaged by using Person Centred Model</p>	<p>Social care training to consider continuation of care criteria challenge interpretation of continuation of care thresholds to increase health contribution to meeting EHC needs</p> <p>Further advice from DfE SEN Advisor regarding what is required from schools to complete transition plan.</p> <p>Training for young person plan with Independent Supporter Service</p>

		<p>Health employed a transition nurse and held a transition event</p> <p>FE colleges holding person centred reviews</p>	Evaluation / survey for parental feedback
<b>Personal Budgets</b>	<b>Ian Stokoe</b>	<p>Personal budgets: brokers supporting parents implementing and using budget model morphed from 'In Control' developed by Newcastle and Sussex, being improved and refined in using a RAS system.</p> <p>Corporate Transport has considered how personalisation and increased options for travel can be offered to children, young people and their families.</p>	<p>Personal budgets – wikii offer travel / transport budget – corporate budget – gap in membership on project board ensure options – mileage / travel trainer for individual travel.</p>