



Pathways to SEND– Recommendations from the Children’s and Education Select Committee Review Group

Chairman – Cllr Diana Blamires

Response from Cabinet

Recommendation	Cabinet’s Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
<p>1.The review group supports the ongoing and review on Buckinghamshire’s “Local Offer” to be customer-focussed for children, young people and their parents. We recommend a more user-friendly approach with simple language, and suggest the inclusion of inserted videos, clear links to first port-of-call contact lists for each area of diagnosis and examples of pathway diagrams.</p>	<p>Agreed. The ongoing review and improvement of the SEND Local Offer content is crucial to ensuring it is up to date, accurate and meets the needs of children, young people and their families. Capturing the feedback from families forms an important part of our process.</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer and Caroline Marriott, Head of SEND This is an ongoing task and a formal review will be conducted in September 2023.</p>
<p>2.The Cabinet Member for Children’s and Education and the Chairman of the Children’s and Education Select Committee write jointly to the Government to recommend a change of name of “The Local Offer” in order to make it easier for parents to find when searching websites for their first access to information.</p>	<p>Disagree. As the Children & Families Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to provide “a clear and transparent Local Offer which outlines services available to children and young people with SEN”, any change of name would require an amendment to national legislation. Therefore, the Cabinet Member for Children’s and Education and the Chairman of the Children’s and Education Select Committee feel it would be inappropriate to write jointly to the Government to recommend a change of name. That being said, the Service recognises the importance of ensuring parents and carers understand how they can access</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer Cllr Julie Ward</p>

	information they need. As a result, the service with our partners will continue through a variety of forums to promote and raise the awareness of Buckinghamshire's Local Offer to children, young people and their families.	
3.The county-wide communications plan being developed for SEND should include promotion of our Local Offer, and this must include further promotion via social media.	Agreed. The service already has a specific communications plan in place for the SEND Local Offer. This is reviewed regularly by the Local Offer Advisory Group which includes parent representatives. This will continue to be closely linked with the county-wide SEND communications plan including ongoing promotion via social media.	Cllr Anita Cranmer Lucy Pike, Head of Transformation & Improvement Ongoing
4. A neurodiversity resource pack should be developed with key contact information about the Local Offer, charities, relevant organisations and health professionals so that it could be given to parents by all agencies as an initial signposting tool.	Agreed. Providing information to families and signposting to services that can support around neurodiversity is vital. There is work underway across the partnership to map resources that support children and young people with neurodiversity.	Cllr Anita Cranmer Caroline Hart, Designated Clinical Officer January 2024
5. The neurodiversity resource pack should be promoted in all relevant forums e.g. Headteacher and Governor network meetings and it should also be shared with all Councillors in order to assist them in their casework with residents.	Agreed. Once available, the resource pack will be shared and made available via the Local Offer. In addition, the service will make use of all existing forums to promote the resource pack and raise awareness.	Cllr Anita Cranmer Children's Services SLT January 2024
6. The Council support the implementation of the training qualification for all SENCOs as stated in the Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan	Agreed. Whilst the council welcomes the introduction of the new national qualification for SENCOs, this is unlikely to be rolled out until 2025. In the meantime, Buckinghamshire Specialist Teaching Teams and SEND Inclusion Advisors are proactively supporting access to existing training and development opportunities for SENCOs.	Cllr Anita Cranmer Simon James, Service Director Education

<p>7. The SENCO meetings network be extended to ensure that all SENCOs have the opportunity to attend regular meetings for the purposes of sharing best practice and timely information.</p>	<p>Agreed. Strengthening the existing SENCO meetings has and continues to be a priority for the service. This includes ensuring that all SENCOs have the opportunity to access information, support and advice on a regular basis.</p>	<p>Cllr Cranmer and Caroline Marriott Work already in progress.</p>
<p>8. The Cabinet Member for Children’s and Education and the Chairman of the Children’s and Education Select Committee write jointly to the Government to recommend a substantial increase in the number of university degree places for Educational Psychologists nationally, to enable educational psychologists to give greater support to schools on work relating to neurodiversity in children and young people.</p>	<p>Agreed. Recruitment and retention of Educational Psychologists (EPs) is a priority for the service. Currently, this is a challenge locally given the national shortage of EPs.</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer Cllr Julie Ward September 2023</p>
<p>9. A programme of neurodiversity in-school training be developed for all teachers and wider school and nursery staff.</p>	<p>Agreed. The Service, in consultation with our schools, will determine the most effective way for neurodiversity training to be delivered in order to support all teachers and wider school and nursery staff.</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer Caroline Hart Gareth Drawmer, Head of Achievement & Learning March 2024</p>
<p>10. All secondary schools should be encouraged to deliver neurodiversity talks in school to foster a greater awareness and understanding of neurodiversity amongst pupils.</p>	<p>Agreed. During the Autumn term, the service will work with Public Health colleagues to develop a range of tools and information that will assist schools in using PSHE lessons to raise the awareness of neurodiversity in schools</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer Simon James January 2024</p>