

Equalities and Voluntary & Community Sector Screening

Member Portfolio: Children's Social Care and Learning

Service: Education and Skills - Special Educational Needs

Line title/Description of Decision:

Buckinghamshire SEND Strategy

Following a SEND Review in 2016, and a formal consultation exercise, a new SEND Strategy to span the period 2017 – 2020 has been drafted. It is framed within the statutory framework for SEND as set out in Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and in the statutory guidance – the SEND Code of Practice – DFE 2014. The legislation is binding on education, health and social care services, including state funded education providers. It spans children and young people between the ages of 0 and 25 years.

Wide ranging dialogue with stakeholders took place during the SEND Review and formal consultation took place in October 2016.

Reports have been taken to Select Committee, One Council Board and to LAG.

Cabinet is asked to:

- note the current and future financial challenges
- agree the draft SEND Strategy
- determine that an annual report on progress and performance of the Strategy should be considered by the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

Name of officer completing screening:	Gillian Shurrock	Date completed:	28 Dec 2016
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Equalities Screening		Yes	No	Maybe				
Q1	Will the proposal have an impact on the public or service users directly (e.g. removing/reducing a service, changing mode/place of delivery or increasing charges)?		x					
Q2(a)	Will groups of people be affected differently by the proposal because of a protected characteristic as set out in the Equality Act 2010 (see below), or because of their geographic location or economic status?	x						
Q2 (b)	If "yes" or "maybe", please indicate below by placing an X in the relevant box(es) below:							
	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Pregnancy & Maternity Status	Race	Religion or Belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
		X						
	Geographic location(s) (If any, please state):							
	Socio economic group(s) (If any, please state):							

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Q3	Will the proposal have an impact on how other services are delivered by the county council, external suppliers or other statutory agencies (e.g. increased demand/costs)?		X	
Q4	Will the proposal have an impact on our employees (e.g. redundancy, change of place/mode of delivery, usual working practices)?		X	
Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Screening		Yes	No	Maybe
Q5	Does the proposal have a direct impact on voluntary and community sector organisations either as a result of a reduction/cessation of funding (including where contracts are coming to an end and will not be renewed or new contracts are at lower cost)?		X	
Equalities/VCS Screening – further information				
Please include in the box below any information to help explain your answers to the screening questions. Where the proposal is a reduction please state what the total budget for the cost centre is prior to the proposal being implemented.				
<p>The SEND Strategy aims to improve the experience of their pathway through education for children and young people with SEND. It aims to address the financial challenges of the past few years by securing improved decision making and strategic planning. It also aims to secure improved provision for children with SENs across mainstream schools reducing the need for a higher than average dependency on high cost and specialist educational provision.</p> <p>A full Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the review that led to the Strategy and the Strategy itself will reduce / remove risks of discrimination for disabled pupils / students.</p>				
Do I need to complete a full impact assessment? NO				

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You should be familiar with the context and the scale of the proposal when set against the service being provided and, therefore, be able to make an informed decision as to whether a full impact assessment is necessary. The text below should help confirm that decision.

If you have answered “No” to all of the equalities and VCS screening questions, you will not need to continue with a full impact assessment. This could be because relevance to equalities or the VCS has not been identified, or because the amount of the proposal is too insignificant when set against the cost centre/team budget to have any impact on the Council’s Public Sector Equality Duty (see below). Whatever your reason for not carrying out an assessment, please ensure this is explained in the further information section on the preceding page.

If you have answered “Yes” or “Maybe” to one or more of the equalities screening questions you should consider completing an equalities impact assessment (EIA). Your decision and your approach should be based on proportionality and relevance. Please read through the EIA proforma as this is designed to prompt your thinking about the relevant issues such as:

- How the proposal will affect service provision to service users and residents (both now and in the future)
- Any known existing inequalities in service delivery/outcomes for residents
- The risk and cost to the council’s finances and reputation if there is a judicial review of the decision to implement the proposal
- The scale of the proposal when set against the future resources to deliver the service (i.e. how likely is a £29k cut in a £3mn budget going to affect performance against the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which, in essence, is to:
 1. ***Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation***
 2. ***Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not by:***
 - a. *Removing or minimising disadvantage that people in the protected groups suffer because its connected to that protected characteristic*
 - b. *Take steps to meet the needs of people from the protected groups where these differ to those of other people*
 - c. *Encourage participation from protected groups in public life or other activity where their participation is disproportionately low*
 3. ***Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not by:***
 - a. *Tackling prejudice*
 - b. *Promoting understanding*

If you have answered “Yes” or “Maybe” to the VCS screening question you should complete a VCS impact assessment (VCS IA).

Please ensure that your Cabinet Member has agreed the outcome of the screening exercise as these will be collated and presented to them for sign off.

Please return this completed screening assessment to Yvette Thomas, Policy & Equality Manager, 4th floor, New County Offices. If you’re unsure how to proceed after completing the screening, please ring on 01296 387483 to discuss or by email to ythomas@buckscc.gov.uk