

Children's & Education Select Committee 3 November 2022

Response to Sarah Hodges' Questions from Simon James, Service Director for Education

1. Could Buckinghamshire Council provide an update on the implementation of an EHC Hub (a digital platform) supporting engagement, contributions and collaboration on EHC assessments, plans and reviews. Parents/guardians, staff and professionals can spend considerable periods of time chasing information which could be accessed online providing up to date information to all parties, question raised November 2021

Response:

Digital platform for EHC needs assessments

- Between April and July 21, we piloted a new online portal for inputting, logging and tracking EHC needs assessments.
- The idea will be that schools, professionals and families can all input into the system as part of the EHC needs assessment process.
- We have rolled this out to all schools since September 2021. This is for all new EHC plans. The next phase is to train and roll out with families.
- A longer- term aspiration is to use this system for the annual review process of EHCPs as well.

2. The continually issues with staff recruitment and/or retention issues within the SEN department and associated support services which causes delay to statutory timescales.

Response:

- The Integrated SEND Service has experienced recruitment and retention difficulties with respect of its Senior EHC Coordinators, EHC Coordinators and Assistant EHC Coordinators.
- A successful recruitment campaign has concluded and we have appointed to our establishment; new staff members are beginning in the Autumn Term.
- The iSEND Services' Specialist Teacher and Educational Psychologists have not had retention difficulties.
- The iSEND Service has successfully appointment to it Senior Leadership Team, with the inclusion of a SEND Inclusion Advisor, an additional Senior EHCCo and a iSEND Support Coordinator in each hub. In January our permanent Head of SEN starts, alongside a new role of Head of SEN Operations.