

Pathways to SEND

Recommendations from the Children’s and Education Select Committee Review Group

6 Month Progress Update – March 2024



Select Committee Recommendation	Cabinet’s Response to Select Committee	Progress in Implementing Recommendation	Lead
<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>Research with 153 families has enabled the service to strengthen the way in which the Local Offer content is presented. As a result, it is now more accessible and user friendly. A “new to SEND” webpage is in the process of being developed to increase the visibility of this area.</p> <p>All Local Offer content meets the gov.uk design standards and public sector accessibility criteria. The best practice “step by step” method is used as diagrams are not digitally accessible. Videos are linked to an appropriate point in the content. Additional funding has been secured to further develop the Local Offer web platform including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directory developments (including search function, filters, labels, categories, hints and tips for searching). • Comms and e-learning (including Members’ pack, advertising campaign, development of an e-learning module for staff). • Website improvements (including search function, wireframe development, ‘how to’ search guide). • User research project to identify issues and needs to feed into the directory and website development work. 	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer</p> <p>Caroline Marriott, Head of SEND</p> <p>Anna Ellis, Partnerships and Information Manager</p> <p>ACTION ONGOING</p>

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<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 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.</p>		<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer Cllr Julie Ward</p> <p>ACTION NOT TAKEN FORWARD</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>The countywide SEND communications plan is now in draft and discussions are ongoing with the corporate colleagues to develop a SEND comms campaign. While this is being finalised the local offer promotional activity continues.</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer Lucy Pike, Head of Transformation & Improvement Anna Ellis, Partnerships and Information Manager</p> <p>ACTION ONGOING</p>

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	will continue to be closely linked with the county-wide SEND communications plan including ongoing promotion via social media.		
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.	<p>The Autism toolbox has been reviewed and updated with links to key resources. Updated content has been drafted and awaiting parent/carer feedback.</p> <p>Funding discussions are underway to increase access to the Autism Early Support Parent Portal which provides a wide range of information and resources for families. Currently CAMHS clients are able to access the portal free of charge but widening access is a priority. Once funding is agreed, this will provide parents with all the key information they may require.</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer</p> <p>Caroline Hart, Designated Clinical Officer</p> <p>ACTION ONGOING</p>
5. The neurodiversity resource pack should be promoted in all relevant forums e.g.	Agreed. Once available, the resource pack will be shared and made available via the	The promotional approach has now been agreed and the resource pack will be made available once developed per recommendation 4.	Cllr Anita Cranmer Children's Services

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<p>Headteacher and Governor network meetings and it should also be shared with all Councillors in order to assist them in their casework with residents.</p>	<p>Local Offer. In addition, the service will make use of all existing forums to promote the resource pack and raise awareness.</p>		<p>SLT</p> <p>Caroline Hart, Designated Clinical Officer</p> <p>Gareth Drawmer, Head of Achievement and Learning</p> <p>ACTION ONGOING</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No further update as new qualification not yet released.</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer</p> <p>Service Director Education</p> <p>Caroline Marriot, Head of Integrated SEND</p> <p>ACTION NOT STARTED</p>

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<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>SENCO Network Liaison Meetings are scheduled termly across the county and are open to all SENDCOs working in primary, secondary, and special schools, as well as academies. The 3 geographic areas have worked collaboratively to ensure consistency of approach. In addition to these meetings, there is also a termly SEND leadership briefing. The Leadership Briefing is typically an opportunity for new processes, updates and generic information to be shared.</p> <p>A SEND support line was also launched in September 2023 for schools and SENCOs to use to seek advice and support more easily.</p>	<p>Cllr Cranmer Caroline Marriott, Head of Integrated SEND</p> <p>ACTION COMPLETE</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</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>A letter has been sent to Government highlighting both the national and local challenges.</p>	<p>Cllr Anita Cranmer Cllr Julie Ward Caroline Marriot, Head of Integrated SEND</p> <p>ACTION COMPLETE</p>

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educational psychologists to give greater support to schools on work relating to neurodiversity in children and young people.			
9. A programme of neurodiversity in-school training be developed for all teachers and wider school and nursery staff.	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	SEND training for 2023/24 academic year has been published and shared with all settings: I-SEND Training Buckinghamshire (buckscc.gov.uk) . It includes various neurodiverse training offers Autism Education Trust (AET) Training sessions Buckinghamshire (buckscc.gov.uk) in addition to the existing Psychological Perspectives in Education and Primary Care (PPEP) training offered through Bucks CAMHS Buckinghamshire CAMHS referrals SPA Oxford Health CAMHS Oxford Health CAMHS	Cllr Anita Cranmer Caroline Hart, Designated Clinical Officer Gareth Drawmer, Head of Achievement & Learning ACTION COMPLETE
10. All secondary schools should be encouraged to deliver neurodiversity talks in	Agreed. During the Autumn term, the service will work with Public Health colleagues to	Work continues to ensure neurodiversity is raised as part of the PSHE agenda. The "Shout Out for SEND" young people's group and the Youth Voice Executive are developing student led routes to discuss	Cllr Anita Cranmer Gareth Drawmer, Head of Achievement and

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<p>school to foster a greater awareness and understanding of neurodiversity amongst pupils.</p>	<p>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>Neurodiversity in schools. This has resulted from discussions with them about barriers to engagement around issues of this nature.</p>	<p>Learning</p> <p>ACTION ONGOING</p>