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Royal Borough
of Windsor &
Maidenhead

SEND Strategy 2022-2027

Consultation Response

March 2022



**achieving
for children**

Introduction

Achieving for Children (AfC), who are commissioned by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) to deliver children's services, went out to consultation on our proposed five-year special educational need and disabilities (SEND) strategy, 2022-2027 from 1 January to 28 February 2022. The draft consultation document had been written based on the SEND team's self-evaluation reflecting feedback from young people, parents and carers, schools, a range of multi-agency organisations and the recent conversations with the Department for Education (DfE). It recognised that even though progress had been made in its SEND provision, there is work to be done to ensure that children and young people with SEND in the RBWM can access high quality SEND provision.

The consultation process included:

- two online meetings with parents and carers (13 and 31 January), jointly hosted by Contact in the absence of a RBWM parent and career forum. A total of 84 parents requested a place
- a participation day, organised for young people at the Windsor Youth Centre to hear their thoughts about SEND provision within the borough. Held on Saturday 22 January with seven inclusion ambassadors representing their peers
- a conference at Moor Hall, for local business, RBWM and health representative, AfC Inclusion team. IASS as well as families. Held on January 27 with over 40 key stakeholders in attendance

The consultation document

The vision statement set out what we aim to achieve whilst the mission statement set out how we intend to achieve it.

The six priorities outline the areas that we intend to focus on to help us achieve our aim.

There were 108 responses in total - a breakdown can be seen in Appendix 1.

General comments

Comment: Many of the responses were supportive of the statements although there were concerns that they were very aspirational and not realistic unless there was a significant increase in revenue, health provision and more capacity for the SENCo to concentrate on their role.

Response: The vision and mission statement were written to describe our long-term ambition and were intentionally aspirational.

Comment: There were a few comments about the fact that the priorities were not SMART and were too general.

Response: For each of the priorities there will be an Implementation plan. This will have SMART targets, a time scale, and ways in which will monitor progress and be held accountable for progress.

Comment: Some of the comments focused on the current provision rather than what on the working of our intentions for the future.

Response: These helped us to understand the frustrations that many feel about the current provision and make us even more determined to improve on what we are currently doing.

Comment: There were many references to the fact that the priority could only be achieved if there are more resources – money and people.

Response: We are acutely aware that there are significant pressures on the High Needs Block and a shortage in trained staff such as therapists. However, we feel that this should not limit our aspirations and priorities.

Changes made to the strategy document because of the consultation

Vision statement

Vision statement consulted on:

‘Every child and young person aged 0 to 25 with a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) in RBWM will be happy, healthy and achieve their fullest potential. All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they: achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and make a successful transition into adulthood.’

Summary of feedback

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
75	27	1	1	4

You said:

- It was aspirational, but unrealistic.
- It needed to say more about Preparation for adulthood.
- It didn't say enough supporting the emotional wellbeing of young people with SEND.

We did:

Final vision statement to be included in strategy document: (Amendments shown in red)

‘We aspire to ensure that every child and young person aged 0 to 25 with a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) in RBWM will be happy, healthy and achieve their fullest potential. All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they: achieve their best and become confident individuals living fulfilling lives. Their emotional wellbeing is equally important. Making a successful transition into adulthood is a priority.’

Mission statement

Mission statement consulted on:

‘To implement an efficient and inclusive system where practitioners work with families, children and young people aged 0 to 25, to develop trust and confidence in order to build genuine and good quality partnerships. This will be achieved by practitioners from all sectors working together collaboratively to deliver the most appropriate local provision and support.’

Summary of feedback

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
73	28	2	2	3

You said:

- Trusting relationships and listening to each other is essential.
- Not having enough money or people and stretched staffing.
- Must have needs of children and young people at heart of decisions.
- Avoid the word ‘deliver’ use ‘doing to’.
- Avoid the word ‘implement’ – as if it’s new.
- Understanding different role.

We did:

Final mission statement to be included in strategy document:

‘To implement an efficient and inclusive system where practitioners work with families, children and young people aged 0 to 25, **having the needs of children and young people at the heart of all decisions. We will listen carefully to children and young people and their families to develop trust and confidence, to** build genuine and good quality partnerships. This will be achieved by practitioners from all sectors working together collaboratively to **coproduce** the most appropriate local provision and support.’

Priority 1

Priority 1 as consulted on:

‘Systems are in place so that the voices of our children, young people and families are heard and acted upon, so they can shape and inform how we work together to get the best results.’

Summary of feedback

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
72	27	3	3	3

You said:

- Communication must be in a fair and transparent manner.
- Consulting is not enough, and coproduction is what we should be aiming for.
- We need genuine partnerships even when the conversations are difficult.
- It needs to be recognised that not all parents know how to get involved in decision making.

We did:

Final priority 1 to be included in strategy document: (Amendments shown in red)

‘Young people with SEND and their families are the ‘experts’ in understanding their child’s needs. We will ensure that systems are in place so that the voices of our children, young people and families are heard and acted upon, so they can shape and inform how we work together to get the best results in a fair and transparent way.’

Priority 2

Priority 2 as consulted on:

‘Children and young people with special educational needs are identified earlier and supported in a timely and effective way in order to improve their outcomes and wellbeing. This means that we will work with our educational settings to ensure that all staff are trained in the identification of a SEND.’

Summary of feedback

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
82	24	1	0	1

You said:

- Negative impact on pupils when needs have not been identified early enough.
- Better, compulsive training for schools that is ongoing and free.
- Signposting families to the right support and services and access to be easier and clearer.
- Immediate action needs to happen when needs are identified.
- Actions based on diagnosis (effected by wait times) rather than need.
- Better support for schools from therapy providers and CAMHS.

We did:

Final Priority 2 statement to be included in strategy document: (Amendments shown in red)

‘Children and young people with special educational needs are identified earlier **and immediate action** taken. **Pupils will be supported in** a timely and effective way **to** improve their outcomes and wellbeing. This means that we will work with our educational settings **and families** to ensure that all staff are trained in the identification of a SEND.’

Priority 3

Priority 3 as consulted on:

‘It is our aim that all RBWM mainstream provision will be welcoming, accessible and inclusive, adhering to the SEND Code of Practice, so that they can meet the needs of most children and young people aged 0 to 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This means you can expect your mainstream local school or setting to make every adjustment to meet the needs of children or young people with SEND.’

Summary of feedback

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
68	22	9	5	4

You said:

- Every pupil's entitlement. Every teacher is a teacher of SEND.
- Mainstream is not always best setting for SEND children, families or professionals need to be listened to.
- Strong SEND leadership in schools.
- Specialist teaching or practice reflecting needs.
- Training, funding, and support for schools.
- Challenging settings who make families and their children feel unwelcome.

We did:

Final Priority 3 statement to be included in strategy document: **(Amendments shown in red)**

“It is our aim that all RBWM mainstream provision will be welcoming, accessible and inclusive, adhering to the SEND Code of Practice, so that they can meet the needs of **the vast majority of** children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities This means you can expect your mainstream local school or setting to make every reasonable adjustment to meet the needs of children or young people with SEND **led by strong SEND leadership within schools.**”

Priority 4

Priority 4 as consulted on:

‘There is an increased focus on earlier targeted intervention and multi-agency prevention to offer help and meet needs at the earliest opportunity, reducing the demand on high cost, high need interventions.’

Summary of feedback:

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
70	23	7	3	2

You said:

- This sounds great but there are staff shortages which results in long waiting times.
- Not all special needs s can we 'prevented'.
- There needs to be more multi agency training.
- There is a lack of signposting and families don't know what is out there to support their child.
- Too often a lack of identification of need means that children are seen as being 'naughty'.

We did:

Final Priority 4 to be included in strategy document: (Amendments shown in red)

"There is an increased focus on earlier targeted and multi-agency intervention to offer help and meet needs at the earliest opportunity supported by training and signposting. This will reduce the demand on high cost, high need interventions as well as ensuring that children's SEND needs are not ignored or misunderstood."

Priority 5

Priority 5 consulted on:

'Development of the right range of specialist provision within the RBWM to ensure that as many children and young people as possible can be educated in a local educational setting.'

Summary of feedback:

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
73	27	6	1	1

You said:

- We don't want to lose specialist OOB placements.
- We need more specialist provision so that our children don't have to travel too far.
- We need to ensure that local provision is inclusive and can meet our children's needs.
- The specialist provision that we create must cover a range of needs including SEMH need.
- We need specialist post 16 offer which provides a five-day week offer.

We did:

Final Priority 5 to be included in strategy document: (Amendments shown in red)

'Development of the right range of specialist provision within the RBWM to ensure that as many children and young people as possible can be educated in a local educational setting is a priority. There needs to be a range of provision to support parental choice and this needs to include more specialist SEMH Provision and a five-day week offer for post 16 young people.'

Priority 6

Priority 6 as consulted on:

‘Young people with SEND are helped to become resilient and confident so that they can lead independent and fulfilling lives in their own communities.’

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
84	20	1	1	2

You said:

- This is the most important aspect of the strategy document.
- Two sides to this: preparing young people with send but also working with local business and housing associations to support their inclusive approach.
- For this to have there must be better multi agency working.
- The Local Offer needs to offer more signposting to what is on offer including support from the third sector.
- More support with this transition point is essential.
- Following the transition there needs to be continuing support with independent living and employment.

We did:

Final Priority 6 to be included in strategy document: (Amendments shown in red)

‘Young people with SEND are helped to become resilient and confident so that they can lead independent and fulfilling lives in their local communities. Supporting independent living and employment is needed with options clearly signposted. Education, Health and Social Care will work more closely together with the young person and their families to support this transition.’

Who responded to the consultation?

As part of the survey, we asked respondents to provide some information about themselves so we can better understand the backgrounds of those who have taken part. The responses are set out below.

Age

The majority of respondents are aged between 35 and 49 (55.6%) and 50 and 64 (28.7%). Less than 2.0% are aged under 16 or over 65. 5.6% of respondents preferred not to give their age.

Gender or sex

The majority of respondents are female (82.2%), 13.1% are male and 4.7% preferred not to say.

Parent or carers

The majority of respondents are parent and carers of children aged 5 to 9 (26.7%), 10 to 14 (25.7%), or 15 to 19 (16.2%). 8.6% stated they have a child under 5 and 5.7% that they have a child aged 20 to 25 who has a special educational need or disability. 14.3% stated they are not a parent or carer.

Disability

54.2% of respondents stated they or anyone in their family do not have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities. 38.3% stated that they do.

Household income

28.7% of respondents stated they have a household income over £60,000, 12.9% stated it is £30,001 to £45,000, 11.1% stated it is £45,001 to £60,000, 7.4% stated it is £15,001 to £30,000, and 7.4% stated they have an income under £15,000. 32.4% of respondents stated they preferred not to say.

Ethnicity

The majority of respondents are White or White British (74.1%). Other respondents are from a range of ethnic backgrounds including:

- White Irish, White - any other background
- Mixed- any other mixed background
- Asian/Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian/Asian British - Chinese
- Asian/Asian British - any other Asian background
- Black/Black British- African.

8.3% respondents preferred not to say.

Religion

The majority of respondents stated they are either Christian (40.7%) or have no religion (35.2%). 1.8% of respondents described their religion as Muslim and 4.6% as other. 17.6% preferred not to say.

Next steps

The following events have been organised to feedback to stakeholders about the feedback and subsequent

Families:

Wednesday 4 May 10.00am to 2.00pm hosted by Contact. This event will feedback about the responses to the consultation and the subsequent changes to the SEND Strategy document. There will also be the opportunity to discuss ways in which parents and carers can be part of the creation of the implementation plans for each priority area.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rbwm-send-strategy-and-next-steps-event-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-305585744187>

All stakeholders:

Wednesday 11 May 11.30am to 12.30pm. This will be a virtual meeting to hear about the consultation and subsequent changes to the SEND strategy document. There will also be the opportunity to hear about next steps and the creation of the implementation plan for each priority.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rbwm-send-strategy-feedback-and-next-steps-tickets-305590739127>

Children and young people:

A series of events will take place throughout the summer term at which young people will hear about the feedback and to be given the opportunity to contribute towards the creation of the implementation plan.