



Bath and North East Somerset Local Area SEND Position Statement - November 2016

Following a review of the implementation of SEND Reforms across the BANES Local Area, the following areas of strength and areas for improvement have been identified:

Strengths

- There has been a **commitment to implementing the reforms and culture change** particularly around person centred approaches and improving the focus on producing specific outcomes
- **Identification of need in Early Years** is a strength, with evidence of good practice particularly around joined up working between health and education in EY settings
- Some **health services are leading in proactively identifying** CYP with potential future needs
- The Local Area has a **joint -commissioning** panel between **health, education and social care** for children with complex needs, which involves joint-assessments between statutory bodies
- Initial feedback from survey for parent/carers of children and young people with EHC plans around **meeting needs** is positive
- Initial Personal Budgets agreed indicate more **joined up working** leading to innovative commissioning arrangements which benefit CYP
- **Good employment outcomes** through Project Search scheme & potential growth for supported internships with young people with High Functioning ASD
- **Impartial and confidential** information, advice and support provided by SEND Partnership Service to ensure that children and young people are receiving appropriate legislative entitlement
- The Local Area is beginning to develop **encouraging practice in preparing for adulthood** and has just become a PFA demonstration site with the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi)
- The Local Area has **completed a demographic and needs analysis** to better understand its population of children with SEND
- There is an Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools Framework Procured jointly with 6 other Local Authorities

Areas for Improvement

- On average, **most families received their EHC plans between 22 and 23 weeks - this is an area where we can improve**
- The Local Area is currently **not well supported by data and analysis** and is therefore not able to demonstrate outcomes easily
- There is a need for more special school places in BANES which can be developed without compromising inclusion in mainstream schools
- The LA is currently developing commissioning capacity **to support SEND particularly in Education**. The Local Area **does not yet have clear oversight of children on SEN support** and it is not clear how the local area at a strategic level is planning for these children
- There is a need to **develop ongoing general and more specific, tailored training** across the Local Area for SEND
- As the SEND Reforms have taken shape across the local area a number of **issues regarding processes have been identified**. There is a need for **some services to improve joint-working and collaboration** around contribution to EHC Plans.
- Services have noted the **need to increase co-production** in order to develop the service offer and ultimately ensure that the voice of the child/young person and parent-carers are taken into account
- **Feedback gathered by some services is useful but it is often on an ad-hoc basis** & we need to develop a more systematic approach in gathering feedback for some services