

Bath and North East Somerset Local Area SEND Position Statement



June 2018

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1. Local Context

Bath and North East Somerset is a small but diverse local authority, geographically located between two large rural authorities (Wiltshire and Somerset) and a large urban unitary authority (Bristol). The city of Bath is the cultural and historical hub of the area with some semi-rural parts around the towns of Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Radstock.

Currently, based on **School Census January 2017 data**, there are approximately 31,192 pupils in BANES (approx.16.6% of the total population, not including young people in FE Colleges). In Bath and North East Somerset, and in common with the national picture, there has been a steady and significant increase in pupils with SEN receiving statutory support (statement or EHCP) since 2014/15.

- 2014: 718 pupils
- 2015: 748 pupils
- 2016: 895 pupils
- 2017: 1062 pupils
- 2018: 1,185 pupils (this is a prevalence rate of 27 per 1000 pupils aged 0-19 cohort)

As of January 2017, there are approximately 3,500 further pupils who receive additional, non-statutory support with their SEN (10.9% of all pupils).

Other significant facts and trends include (data from BANES Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) 2016 :

- Since 2015 there has been a significant increase in the rate of new EHC plans being issued, particularly among children in Reception, Year 1 National Curriculum Years and post 16/19 age group.
- Due to anticipated rising local population levels, the increase in the number of children and young people with a Statement or EHC plan in B&NES is likely to continue, at least in the short- to medium-term.
- Males are 2.5 times more likely than females to have a Statement or EHC plan.
- In terms of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), as at January 2016, 13% of the SEND Statement/EHC plan cohort in B&NES were classified as non-White British, while the other 87% were classified White British (3.7% of the cohort had an unknown BME).
- The electoral wards with the highest numbers and rates of resident children and young people with a SEND Statement/EHC plan in

B&NES include Southdown, Redfield, Radstock, Twerton and Keynsham North wards.

Social Care

As of March 2018: BANES had 170 children and young people with Child Protection plans and 174 were in LA Care. (OFSTED Single Inspection of LA's Children's Services and Review of LSCB July 2017)

Figures for Children in Need remain stable at around 600 open cases at any one time (SEF 2016)

Monitoring and SEND Improvement Plan

Following regular scrutiny of data, assessment of need, progress and outcomes, the SEND Board has recently approved a new monitoring framework. Following detailed self-evaluation carried out in September 2016 we will produce yearly SEND position statements. These will reflect the most up to date summary of strengths and areas for improvement against the following headlines:

- strategic leadership and participation
- joint commissioning
- local offer
- educational outcomes (universal and SEN support)
- health and care outcomes
- advice and support for young people and parents
- children and young people with EHCPs (or statements)
- Safeguarding

Areas for improvement will be subject to a detailed strategic improvement plan.

SEND Strategy 2018 -2022

Key Strategic Objectives:

1. Increase the participation of children, young people, parents and carers in planning, commissioning and reviewing of SEND services
2. Strengthen commissioning capacity in education and commissioning links between adult and children's services
3. Improve attainment and progress for children with SEND in our early years settings, schools & colleges and supported employment opportunities
4. Strengthen responsibility for early identification and intervention and quality of support at universal and SEN Support for all children with SEND
5. Improve transitions for CYP with SEND between all key stages of their life, especially between children's and adult services & into adult life
6. Create a shared SEND data and performance outcomes framework to ensure the local area knows itself well, improves its capacity to monitor and evaluate progress, and as a result is able to be better informed when planning for the future.
7. Review type and number of local SEND educational places and provision, strengthen inclusion opportunities in mainstream schools and colleges, reduce reliance on out of county placements
8. Improve quality, consistency and timeliness of EHC planning for young people, particularly for vulnerable groups e.g. LAC, young offenders
9. Promote choice control and independence and use of direct payments & personal budgets
10. Promote information, advice and support services – ensure young people and their families schools receive the right information at the right time
11. Ensure local area continues to self-evaluate to understand its strengths and weakness

Progress against the above key objectives will be evaluated by:

- 1. SEND Operational Group – bi-monthly reports**
- 2. Senior Leadership Team/JCC – Quarterly Reports**
- 3. SEND Strategy Group – twice yearly reports and RAG judgements**
- 4. CYP Sub Group of the Health and Wellbeing Board – twice yearly reports**
- 5. Health and Wellbeing Board – Annually**

3A. Strategic leadership and participation (objectives 1,6,11) – lead officer Richard Baldwin

Strengths	Areas for improvement (progress and actions specified in the Improvement Plan – section A)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well established governance arrangements - Good engagement from all partners - Active strategic plans to increase numbers of SEND placements within B&NES. - Strategic direction agreed, SEND strategy in place - Good level of understanding of key strategic objectives and actions across all agencies - Recent Ofsted SIF inspection (May 2017) highlighted good quality services to Children with Disability. - Good level of understanding and ability to evaluate strength and areas for improvement - Regular learning events including all partner agencies with a focus around SEND issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting mechanisms, in particular availability of performance data benchmarked against national and regional indicators. This performance data needs to be more routinely utilised by front-line managers to inform practice and monitor the progress of plans/interventions. - Parent carer and young people to have the capacity to play a key role in setting the strategic direction of SEND - Participation and engagement from adult services

- Strategic SEND Board and subgroups are now well established, they meet on regular basis and their work is well coordinated by key strategic senior managers.
- Chief executive of the council and elected members receive regular reports and updates (this is through presentations at Senior Leadership Meetings, Scrutiny Panel, Health and Well-Being Board, and the Local Safeguarding Board.
- Relevant plans underpin work of the groups and enable them to monitor progress.
- There is good attendance and good level of participation of all partners.
- CCG have a good understanding of their strategic duties (evidence e.g. minutes of CCG meetings etc.). DMO and DCO roles are well established and take an active role in working collaboratively with the LA for example in reviewing key documents and processes (review of provision of medical support), regular QA of EHCPs, attendance at SEN Panel.

3B. Joint commissioning (objectives 2,7) – lead officer Mary Kearney Knowles

Strengths	Areas for improvement (progress and actions specified in the Improvement Plan- Section B)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B&NES have integrated commissioning arrangements across the LA and CCG. There is a single Director of Integrated Health and Care Commissioning across the council and CCG and a number of senior commissioning managers have dual responsibility across the LA and CCG - B&NES LA/CCG Senior Commissioning Manager for Specialist Services manages an integrated team of children’s health and social care commissioners that are co-located with the Disabled Children’s Team (DCT) and the Special Education Needs Team (SEND). The team also maximize the opportunities to commission at regional/STP level and use DPS Framework agreements. - Scheme of delegation for decision-making consulted and published; this includes new joint arrangement to tackle above average number of placements in the independent sector - The Local Area has a joint agency panel between, health, education and social care for children with complex needs. It commissions bespoke placements, through a pooled budget, which streamlines decision making and aids partnership work between agencies. - Improved level of awareness and engagement amongst EY, Schools and colleges about DSG funding issues including High Needs - Schools forum regularly discusses SEND provision and use of the High Needs funding block - There is a universal, equitable and needs based methodology for allocating “top up” funding for all age groups and all types of educational settings (EY, schools, FE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring arrangements for ensuring best value for money are not always in place. - The high needs budget faces significant pressures and as a result resources for all children and young people with SEND are under pressure. - The area does not have a dedicated SEND commissioner (education), and therefore commissioning decisions may not always be consistent.

In the last year the LA completed a comprehensive review of decision making in relation to the statutory EHC process and top up funding allocation process. There was wide participation and engagement from across all types of educational settings, health professionals and support services providing their specialist expertise, finance teams helped with the technical knowledge of the financial regulations and SEND Partnership Service provided support and challenge to ensure compliance and parent/young person friendly presentation. The review resulted in a publication of a range of key strategic and operational documents (Guidelines for initiating EHCP Assessment, HN funding operational guidance, EY Inclusion Support funding 2017/18). A number of engagement and support sessions were arranged for SENCOs and head teachers which provided much needed wider strategic understanding of the commissioning issues.

2C. Local offer (objectives 1,2) – lead officer Rebecca Claridge

Strengths	Areas for improvement (progress and actions specified in the Improvement Plan – Section C)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent Carers were involved in the initial redesign of the Rainbow Resource searchable Local Offer (LO) in 2014 and are currently involved in the latest redesign work - Lots of information available about local events, clubs and support for children and young people with SEND - People and Communities Communications Team undertake outreach work to promote the local offer and how it can benefit young people and parent-cares and ensures those who may not have access to internet to view the LO can access its benefits - Feedback received in 2017 shows that a majority of respondents found what they were looking for on the Rainbow Resource website and also found the website useful/helpful. - Web stats show an increasingly flow of traffic to the LO, indicating that more people are accessing the site and the P&C Comms team have been successful in promoting the site to new users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve LO compliance and accessibility – a number of key areas remain partially compliant according to the Code of Practice, which need to be addressed in order to improve the usefulness and clarity of the Local Offer for parent-carers and young people (see Compliance Review Plan) - Peer Review (2017) with Bristol highlighted some partial improvements for Rainbow Resource website. We have taken these challenges and comments and are addressing them through a re-design of the site (planning to go live June 2018).

The LA complied with the legal requirement and published its LO in September 2014. Parents and carers co-produced the original design of the Rainbow

Resource ready for September 2014. Feedback received indicates that the majority of users are happy with the Rainbow Resource site, although some respondents said they had difficulty finding what they were looking for.

The LA and its partners are committed to ensuring that the LO becomes a single point of contact for all families, young people and professionals in relation to SEND. As a result it established a new task and finish group which will review the compliance plan and accessibility. The LA also accepted the outcome of the external peer review held in March 2017. As a result a clear plan is now in place so that we can move from basic compliance to a much better quality Local Offer that meets all the statutory requirements and is an effective resource for young people and parent-carers. A redesigned website is currently being built with the aim of improving navigation and access to the information, support and resources available for children and young people with SEND, with an aim of launching the new site by the end of June 2018.

2D. Outcomes (universal and SEN support, objectives 2,3,4,5) - lead Chris Wilford

Strengths	Areas for improvement (progress and actions specified in the Improvement Plan – Section D)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good practice in early years to ensure needs of children are met through training, effective inclusion and school transition - Good employment outcomes through Project Search scheme, potential for growth of Supported Internships for young people with High Functioning ASD - Excellent support being provided for looked after children under the Virtual School service through special schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The gap between children’s attainment with SEND and those children without in our schools is too wide - Progress is lagging behind other areas for children with SEND - No systematic oversight of the identification of children in SEN Support category & under developed resource for local authority oversight of these children

Despite a good range of local schools that are good or outstanding attainment & progress for pupils on SEND remains poor in relation to their peers and behind the national average. This set of outcomes is also reflected in other vulnerable groups such as children in the free school meals cohort. A local strategy to address performance is being developed and is a key strategic objective in the forthcoming children and young people’s plan. However these issues are now longstanding and understanding and improving the focus on these children will need the support and drive of all leaders in the local area. SEN support is an area where the local area is under resourced in terms of planning and oversight of core standards in schools. A universal approach to supporting the outcomes of this group of children and young people is urgently required to improve the approach to SEND in the local area.

2E. Health and care outcomes (objectives 4,5,9)– Ali Woodiwiss

Strengths	Areas for improvement (progress and actions specified in the Improvement Plan- section E)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of Nursing co-chairs the SEND strategy group to insure senior Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) input into local strategy - BANES CCG sits on NHSE National Children with Complex Needs Board in an advisory role for support to local areas - CCG is participating with the Local Authority in the National SEND Leadership Programme commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE) and delivered by National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI). As part of this programme the LA and CCG are developing an Integrated Assurance Toolkit due for launch and roll out in September 2018 - Majority of community services now jointly commissioned. New service specifications for the recently commissioned Children’s Community Health Services include reference to SEND reforms and have as a core performance measure, monitoring of children with SEND. - Systems to enable health services to notify the LA have been agreed and are in the final stages before launch - New-born and early years screening in place to support early identification of SEND. - The area has good early identification of speech and language needs, parents are able to self-refer and can speak directly to a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sharing outcome information between LA Education & Social Care teams is underdeveloped - How are we measuring the impact of our work (related to the development of the Integrated Quality Assurance toolkit) -Further work is required on improving the way outcomes are described within reports to ensure specificity. -We are not aware of how many children may be missing education as a result of their health needs

<p>therapist within a phone clinic for advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAMHS transformation plan updated to promote resilience, prevention, early intervention and to improve access to mental health services. - Specialist CAMHS is being re-procured to introduce a tier less model of service delivery - 6 weekly health team meetings held within special schools to discuss individual child's health needs; attended by school staff, OT, SALT, Physio, community nurses, DCO. Supports early identification of changing needs and coordinates care. - DCO and health commissioner are colocated with statutory SEND team and contributes at all early years and SEND panels. DCO is available to discuss and progress individual children's needs as required. DMO role has been recruited and has quarterly triumvirate meetings with the health Commissioner and the DCO. A fast track system has been introduced if the SEND panel want a child to be seen by a paediatrician quickly. - Children's continuing care needs are embedded within the SEND process whenever possible. - Initial Personal Budget cases indicate more joined up working leading to innovative commissioning arrangements which benefit the young person - PHBs now effective in all children meeting continuing care criteria. An additional 9 children outside of CCC also hold a PHB to support access to short breaks. - The SEND Partnership Service (delivering information, advice and support to children, young people and families) receives an element of funding from health. Currently delivering a pilot to run 		
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<p>an advice clinic alongside paediatric clinics to offer support from point of diagnosis whenever possible. Single point of access identified in the Advice and Information Officer which is published in the local Offer. This role will signposts to services and where necessary the health Commissioner, DCO and DMO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short break services work to set outcomes which are monitored quarterly - Transition panel includes health and social care providers to ensure children receive the most suitable care and support into adulthood. - Ready Steady Go and Hello program launched across providers to help identify services needed into adulthood. - GP clusters have received specific communications to increase their understanding of the role of the GP in relation to SEND. - A process has been agreed with the Local Authority SEN Team to improve uptake of 14yrs+ annual LD assessments. - Acute trust has LD nurse in post to support admissions and discharge of vulnerable individuals. - Annual SEND workshops held for all health providers. <p>Local Offer includes up to date information about all Children's health services and published detail about various CCG/LA SEND roles</p>		
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Joint working arrangements between Health and the Local Authority on both a strategic and operational level continue are very strong and key relationships between both leaders and operational staff between the health and the Local Authority are well established and characterised by a mutually supportive culture. The DMO/DVO/Commissioner Triumvirate arrangement has been effective in discharging the range of responsibilities needed for the effective implementation and improvement of the health element of SEND Reform. Planning in areas identified for the next stage of progress with a shift in focus onto measuring quality in key operational and strategic areas is underway. These include the following key areas: a focus on improved quality of the health section of EHC Plans; developing a single health advice form with improved co-ordination between services; service redevelopment for children's therapies (SALT and OT); data sharing and monitoring around SEND (clear KPIs written into new community contracts; improved information sharing between the Local Authority and health to inform future provision both in terms of local authority and health services; and the development of an Integrated SEND Quality Assessment framework which will sit over Education, health and Social Care.

2F. Children and young people with EHCP (objectives 8,9) – lead Chris Wilford

Strengths	Areas for improvement (progress and actions specified in the Improvement Plan – section F)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High satisfaction level about the new EHC Plans as expressed by parents and young people - Excellent progress in rates of conversions, on track to comply with March 2018 deadline - Good progress in local first approach for young people leaving special schools and now able to access local college provision - Comprehensive QA process for EHCP in place - The local area is National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI) Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) Demonstration Site. - Currently redeveloping bandings of provision to make it more effective and more equitable. This is done in conjunction with Schools and Parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustain further compliance with statutory 20 week timescale. - More focus on parental /YP satisfaction (you said, we did approach)

In the last year there has been an intense focus on ensuring statutory compliance with key timescales. The SEN team has undergone a lean review of the operational functions, team members had increased opportunities for regular training and support, senior officers and team manager have been appointed to permanent positions. Two SEND practitioners based in special schools enhanced the capacity by providing expertise and support with the volume of children with EHCPs in those schools. As a result the LA is now confident that all conversions will be completed by the end of March 2018, on average 90% of EHCPs are now completed within the 20 week timescale.

Parents and young people provide positive feedback on the approach taken in planning EHCP's and each plan has a one page profile and a 'My Future My Choice'. Technology is being appraised to see how engagement can be further improved. Additional capacity for children and young people voice is in their plans is delivered locally by Off the Record.

The SEND Partnership Service provides free confidential and impartial information, advice to children, young people and parent carers. Advocacy for children and young people is provided by Off the Record.

2G. Disagreement resolution, complaints, advice and support for young people and parents (objectives 10) – lead Chris Wilford

Strengths	Areas for improvement (progress and actions specified in the Improvement Plan – section G)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEND Partnership Service has now relocated to re-emphasise impartiality from Local Authority - Families say they find the support that SPS offers invaluable and is impartial and informed - 11 Independent Supporters (IS) have been trained to support families across Bath and North East Somerset - Complaints and tribunals in the Local Area remain low - The SEND team have a process of meeting and talking with families to resolve issues & commission and independent mediation service to support disagreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External funding SPS currently receives ceases from April 2018, impacting upon Independent Support, work has begun to look at addressing this - SPS Capacity for dealing with increasing caseloads remains an issue and reflects increasing statutory numbers - SPS are increasingly dealing with complex cases which is more time consuming for professionals and families

The Local Area works hard to support parents and young people in matters when disagreement occurs. Complaints and tribunals are low and the SEND team have a graduated approach to resolving disagreement. The SEND Partnership Service is well regarded and is adapting to find new ways to deliver capacity. However 70% of the work carried out is for children and young people on SEN Support, possibly reflecting the positive satisfaction of parents with an EHCP, but of the challenges faced by families whose children are not supported by an EHCP.

2H. Safeguarding (objectives 6,7,11) – lead Richard Baldwin

Strengths	Areas for improvement (progress and actions specified in the Improvement Plan – section H)
<p>Recent Ofsted SIF Inspection confirms the Local Authority as being “Good”. The report also confirms that thresholds are well understood by partner agencies.</p> <p>Recent Ofsted inspection of the LSCB also confirms it to be “Good” overall, with strong partnership working.</p> <p>Launch of Early Help Hub (October 2017), strengthens systems to assist quick allocation of early help cases and timely interventions at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>We continue to develop and improve the quality of data available to managers and staff to assist in monitoring performance and recording interventions plans and assessments. The implementation of a new Council data-base Liquid-Logic (EYES) will significantly assist in our ability to improve these aspects of practice.</p> <p>There is a need to strengthen the links between SEND services and DCT at the point of initial notification.</p>

Safeguarding services in B&NES are good and DCT are a strong social care team with positive praise in their recent OFSTED inspection on the practice and procedures. However links between social care and the SEND team during the EHCP process need to improve. In a recent audit of files too many EHCPs lacked social care input, particularly when it was evident when the social care had involvement with families.

Links with early help services during the EHC assessment are also underdeveloped and opportunities to share information and possibly link families with early help services during the assessment are missed.