

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ADULT & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TO:	HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD		
DATE:	18 JULY 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	4
TITLE:	UPDATE ON CHANGES TO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION 2014 - 2016		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR ENNIS/ CLLR HOSKIN	PORTFOLIO:	EDUCATION/ HEALTH
SERVICE:	INCLUSION AND SEN	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	CHRIS STEVENS	TEL:	0118 9372351
JOB TITLE:	SEN SERVICE MANAGER	E-MAIL:	<a href="mailto:Chris.stevens@reading.gov.uk">Chris.stevens@reading.gov.uk</a>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At its meeting on 24 April 2014, the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education (ACE) Committee received the attached report (Appendix 1) on the position with regard to changes to Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision 2014-16 in relation to national changes due to start from September 2014, which will take up to three years to implement, and outlining the direction of travel required in order to meet the short and medium requirements of the Children and Families Bill. ACE agreed that the report be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board and that representatives of the Reading Families' Forum be invited to attend the meeting (Minute 33 refers).
- 1.3 The opportunity for improved partnership with parents will be at the heart of the work to implement the local systems which will be developed to meet the needs of local children and comply with national requirements. Ramona Bridgeman and Tara Robb, of Reading Families' Forum, gave a presentation on the parental perspective of having a child with special needs at ACE on 24 April 2014, and they will attend this meeting and repeat the presentation.
- 1.5 At its meeting on 7 July 2014, the ACE Committee received the attached update report (Appendix 2) on progress that has been made with regard to the development of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) strategy. There has been extensive consultation and the four priority areas have been agreed by Parents Forum, Schools, Practitioners and the Independent and Voluntary sector. An Action Plan has been drafted with LA officers and representatives of Parents Forum. This has been signed off by the SEN strategy group. The fully populated SEN strategy Action Plan will be circulated for information during September 2014.

## 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the report/s and presentation be noted.

## 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 It is imperative that the SEN strategy represents the holistic needs of children, young people (CYP) and their families. If CYP with SEN are to leave schools emotionally and physically healthy and able to transfer to either further training or employment, then both schools and communities need to work together to support and develop expert provision to meet needs.

## 4. THE PROPOSAL

### **Changes to Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision 2014-16**

- 4.1 ACE agreed that the report attached at Appendix 1 should be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board because Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans will replace the current Statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) and Section 139a assessments and offer a single integrated plan from birth to 25. The plan will offer the same statutory protection to parents as the statement of SEN and will include a commitment from all agencies to provide their services. Implementation for this begins from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 with a three year transition period during which all current Statements will be re-written as Education, Health and Care (ECH) plans.

### **Presentation**

- 4.2 The ACE Committee also recommended that representatives of the Reading Families' Forum be invited to attend the meeting to give the presentation on the parental perspective of having a child with special needs which was given at the ACE meeting.

### **Joint Commissioning Strategy**

- 4.3 A joint health/council commissioning strategy for health provision for children with additional needs will need to be developed and a task group is working to establish a system for joint commissioning. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by April 2016.

### **The Local Offer**

- 4.4 The Local Offer is a term introduced in the legislation and is used to describe a concept of both information and services that help families understand what provision is available to them in the local area. It has the following elements:

- early years
- school and college provision and transport to and from it;
- social care services available, including short breaks;
- health services, including speech and language therapy;

- how to access specialist support; and special and specialist school provision available - including training providers and apprenticeships.
- 4.5 The Local Offer is well on track for being in place by 1<sup>st</sup> September 14. All Reading's schools, Colleges, Nurseries are currently in the process of completing our on line questionnaire that will become their Local Offer as published within the Reading Local Offer website. They will complete this exercise by 7 July 2014. Similar on line questionnaires have been sent for completion to the Family Information Service, colleagues in Health, Voluntary Organisations and teams within RBC.

#### **Education, Health & Care Plans**

- 4.6 The national changes require Statements of Special Educational Need to be converted into Education, Health and Care plans by September 2017 and the Council has taken a phased approach to this, maintaining existing statements until their conversion.
- 4.7 The Education, Health and Care plan has been completed. Parents Forum and SEN /LDD leads across Berkshire have been involved with the creation of this plan. This has been led and coordinated by Reading. The agreed format has come after extensive discussions with families and with representatives from Local Authorities who have been appointed as Pathfinders to develop the Plan, the Local Offer and the process for the allocation of Personal Budgets.
- 4.8 The Education, Health and Care Plan has been signed off by our Health colleagues. Currently a trial is under way with two families and the SEN team to complete the Plan. This process will help to iron out any last procedural or content issues by 1 September 2014.

### **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 5.1 As identified in the attached report/s to ACE.  
The success of the SEN strategy will have a direct bearing on the future health and develop of these CYP. This will include both emotional and physical health.

### **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

- 6.1 As attached. As will be noted there has been extensive consultation with community groups, families, Independent and Voluntary sector and Schools and Practitioners

### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 As attached

### **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 As attached

**9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 As attached

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Report to ACE, 24 April 2014 - Update on Changes to SEN Provision 2014-16  
(Appendix 1)

Report to ACE, 7 July 2014 - Update on Special Educational Needs Provision  
2014 - 2016 (Appendix 2)