

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL –
REPORT TO MEMBERS**

1.	Meeting	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services
2.	Date:	19th September, 2012
3.	Title	Proposal for a strategic approach to respond to the DfE SEN Green Paper, 'Support and Aspirations; a New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability'.
4.	Programme Area:	Resources Directorate

5. Summary

This paper sets out a proposal for a project group to take forward work on responding to the requirements of the DfE SEN Green Paper, 'Support and Aspirations; a New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability'. Issues that require a strategic approach include the Education, Health and Care Plan (EH&CP), Personal Budgets, market facilitation and market management.

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families Services

- 6.1 Endorse the proposal for a strategic approach to respond to the DfE SEN Green Paper, 'Support and Aspirations; a New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability'.**
- 6.2 Receive further papers that report on the progress and outcomes of the project**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Green Paper for Disabled Children

On March 9th 2011, the DfE SEN Green Paper, 'Support and Aspirations; a New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability', was released;
<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/CM%208027>

The Department's website stated;

"Every child deserves a fair start in life, with the best opportunity to succeed. Currently, life changes for the approximately two million children and young people in England who are identified as having a special educational need (SEN), or who are disabled, are disproportionately poor.

'Support and Aspirations: a New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability' makes wide-ranging proposals to the frustrations of children and young people, their families and the professionals who work with them.

The vision for reform set out in this green paper includes wide ranging proposals to improve outcomes for children and young people who are disabled or have SEN, minimise the adversarial nature of the system for families and maximise value for money. The Green Paper states:

"By 2014, our intention is that all families with the proposed 'Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)' will be entitled to a personal budget. Subjecting to piloting, this would include funding for education and health support as well as social care."

The Green paper for Disabled Children will give us the opportunity to work with children, young people, their families and adults with disabilities. Within the Green Paper there are significant proposals for change to:

- better support life outcomes
- give parents confidence by giving them more control
- transfer power to professionals on the front line and to local communities

The 5 main areas of proposed changes are under the following headings:

- Early Identification and Support
- Giving Parents Control
- Learning and Achieving
- Preparing for Adulthood

- Services working together for families

The main points in relation to strategic commissioning from the Green Paper include:

- Supporting 0-25yr olds with disability or special educational needs
- Personal budgets option to families by 2014
- Early (and earlier) intervention and prevention
- Joint working – health, social care, education
- Partnerships – in and across agencies, communities and the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Parental participation – individual and strategic level through consultation
- Structural and cultural change necessary
- Focus on outcomes

7.2 Pathfinders and Pilots

There are a number of pathfinder pilots announced by the Minister for Children and Families to take forward the proposed changes and test the core elements of reform, including:

- A single education, health and care plan from birth to 25 years old, focusing on whether outcomes for disabled children and their parents have been improved.
- Personal budgets for parents of disabled children and those with SEN so they can choose which services best suit the needs of their children.
- Strong partnership between all local services and agencies working together to help disabled children and those with SEN.
- Improved commissioning, particularly through links to health reforms.
- The role of voluntary and community sector organisations and parents in a new system.
- The cost of reform.

Currently a number of local authorities are acting as pilots in two identified areas as follows:

- Developing a health, education, care plan from birth to 25 years
- Personal budgets

Learning from the pilot authorities has been published, 'The Final Evaluation Report – the IB process: Individual Budgets for families with disabled children. It is clear that the pilot LA's have faced a number of challenges particularly in delivery of Personal Budgets.

7.3 Proposal

The Green Paper DfE SEN Green Paper, 'Support and Aspirations; a New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability' offers the opportunity to develop a strategic, coordinated, partnership approach and to work strategically with our key partners to develop joint, integrated commissioning and service delivery to improve outcomes for disabled children and their families.

It is proposed here that a project group be set up as the overarching body to take forward work on responding to the requirements of the DfE SEN Green Paper, 'Support and Aspirations; a New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability'. Issues that require a strategic approach include the Education, Health and Care Plan (EH&CP), Personal Budgets, market facilitation and market management. The group will also need to consider the HR workforce implications in moving to increased choice and control through Personal Budgets and the opportunity for families to choose alternatives to in-house provision. These changes also provide a significant cultural challenge for our staff in shifting their thinking and practise around Personal Budgets.

There will be a number of task and finish groups, for example, Finance and the Resource Allocation System (RAS), Personal Budgets, Consultation, Commissioning, HR and Education. These groups will all report into the overarching Project Group to ensure a coordinated coherent approach across all partners, agencies and functions. There has been a significant amount of work already been undertaken in the SEN Assessment service on the new EHCP and this will be integrated into the work programme.

This project group will sit under the proposed Joint CYPS Commissioning Group the proposal and the draft terms of reference are currently in circulation for decision. The joint commissioning group in turn report to the CCG to the Children, Young People and Families Partnership and to the Health and Well Being Board.

Membership of the group will be drawn from Strategic Commissioning for CYPS, Disabled Children's service, Health – Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Education, finance, HR and the voluntary sector. There will be robust and comprehensive engagement of parents and carers in developing the way forward.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report at this time however there may be future consideration of pooled budgets arising from any joint commissioning activity.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

That if the project approach is not adopted there is a risk that Rotherham's disabled children and families will not receive the highest quality of service along with improved outcomes.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This approach will enable an integrated response to the emerging agenda for Disabled Children and their families

12. Background Papers and Consultation

Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and Disability'

Aiming High for Disabled Children

Statutory Duty to produce a Short Breaks statement

TLAP (Think Local Act Personal) (2011) – Making it Real

DH (2010) Equality and Excellence – Liberating the NHS

HMG (2007) 'Putting People First':

DH (2008) Independent Living Strategy

DH (2008) Commissioning for Personalisation: A Framework for Local Authority Commissioners

In Control (2008) Smart Commissioning: exploring the impact of personalisation on commissioning

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