

# SCRUTINY REPORT

**MEETING:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**SUBJECT:** SEND Delivery Plan

**REPORT FROM:** Isobel Booler, Director of Skills & Education

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Beth Speak, Children's Improvement & Transformation Manager

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In July 2017, the Joint Local Area SEND Inspection took place in Bury and the local area were required to produce a Written Statement of Action in response to the 8 significant weaknesses that were identified.
- 1.2 In May 2019, there was a follow-up visit where it was concluded that the local area had made insufficient progress overall, although sufficient progress had been made in respect of five of the eight recommendations.
- 1.3 A new SEND inspection framework was introduced in January 2023; under the new arrangements all local areas will receive an inspection every 5 years. Where weaknesses have been identified on a previous visit, or if there are serious concerns raised at any time, the local area will be subject to monitoring inspections.
- 1.4 Bury co-produced a delivery plan with our parents and carers (this is also often referred to as either a development or improvement plan), and this addresses the areas for improvement that were raised in inspection but also what the local area recognises needs to improve based on performance, data, quality assurance activity and importantly feedback from parents, carers and families in Bury.
- 1.5 The purpose of this report is to update members of Scrutiny in relation to progress in relation to our improvement, as set out in our Delivery Plan.

## 2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 The SEND Delivery Plan has been refreshed; maintaining the structure agreed with our families when the plan was originally co-produced, we have ensured that the actions against each of the 9 outcomes are focused on 2023-24 activity. Progress updates have been revisited to ensure that they are more focused on impact than a checklist of activity. We are working with the Council for Disabled Children to refresh the wording of the outcomes so that they are more child centred.
- 2.2 To support the Delivery Plan, we will develop a plan on a page showing key milestones as an overview to SEND improvement. We are also revisiting the architecture around the detailed reviews of the plans, ensuring a systematic approach which includes all stakeholders including our parents and carers. Highlight reports will be created using best practice examples from other local areas to report progress in relation to the Delivery Plan to Boards and to support strategic discussion.

- 2.3 We have appointed Cathy Hamer as Independent Chair to the SEND Strategic Partnership Board. She is recognised regionally and nationally, and has a skill base from working with early years to preparing for adulthood, and the post-16 agenda.
- 2.4 Please note the following progress updates in relation to the delivery plan:
- 2.5 We are working with the Council for Disabled Children to produce an outcomes framework. This is being co-produced with parents and carers, and key stakeholders. The outcomes framework will be used to support performance reporting and understand whether our improvement activity is having the desired impact on outcomes. The outcomes framework is expected at the end of October 2023.
- 2.6 We have developed a draft Quality Assurance (QA) framework and held two multi-agency audits, which have been shared with the SEND Strategic Board. We will need to consider how multi-agency audits complement single agency auditing and how learning from audit is shared with practitioners to develop improved services.
- 2.7 Bury's SEN Strategy has a strong emphasis upon meeting a wider range of needs at SEN Support by embedding Bury's graduated approach (GA) to identifying, assessing, and meeting SEN needs earlier.

Key features of our approach are as follows.

- Our Graduated Approach was co-produced and soft launched in October 2022, to provide a strong emphasis on meeting a wider range of needs at SEN Support stage by identifying, assessing, and meeting SEN needs earlier and ensuring that the universal offer is fully understood.
  - The Graduated Approach toolkit exists on paper form and has been a central focus on the SENCo networks and a Headteacher conference (May 2023) which was well attended and had 92% positive feedback.
  - SENCo networks to support the Graduated Approach were re-launched in 2022 and will be run jointly by ElmsBank and the Local Authority in 2023 with both in-reach and outreach training opportunities.
  - To embed the Graduated Approach the Inclusion Panel has been reviewed and, from September, will operate as a proactive multi-agency panel with a remit to ensure that SEN Support plans are being used to support any child where there is consideration of additional support and that this is addressed before any request for an EHCP can be made. The Panel will act as a direct referral route to a range of support systems and training as well as supporting children and young people where there has been a EHCP assessment, but the outcome is that needs can be met at SEN Support.
  - To support the success of the Graduated Approach we have developed SEND practice fortnights so that all our workforce is aware of the universal offer and the targeted offer.
  - To ensure consistency of identification and to support the embedding of the Graduated Approach a 'Matching provision to Need Tool' has been developed. This is all age with resources for Early Years, Primary, secondary and post 16. This tool is to be launched in September 2023 and is supportive of Bury's increased continuum of provision.
- 2.8 Bury has focused on a total refresh of its Local Offer and has revised the SENCo network and headteacher training offer. The revision of our Local Offer has been strengthened in the following key areas:

- To ensure parents are supported to access universal and Early Help support to meet their child's needs in a timely which has been ongoing since May 2023.
- We have Launched the 'Friends of the Local offer initiative and we launched a Local Offer newsletter in January 2022 which has continued to be issued and has been well received.
- We have held two full SEND Local Offer days in October 22 and July 2023 with feedback that all parents surveyed gained additional information.
- The Local Offer has been restructured so that parents can easily identify and access support through the universal offer reducing the need for targeted intervention. The restructured Local Offer will be live from the end of October in the new format as requested by parents. In advance of this the updated information has already been uploaded onto the current Local Offer site.
- A series of Local Offer co-production events have been held with parents to ensure that parents have actively contributed to it and ensuring ease of accessibility.
- This work has been progressed through the leadership of a SEND ambassador and by revising the SENCo network including high quality CPD and networking opportunities across the borough, including the Headteacher development offer, within clusters of schools and bespoke to individual settings.
- SEND navigators are now being recruited to and trained by Barnardos – initially based at Redvales they will provide offline access to the Local Offer.

2.10 The Education Restructure is now complete and so we are moving to recruit to our SEND Support Outreach Service. We have realigned our primary SEND inclusion leads to link to the school improvement team, with closer working and alignment of the geographic zones.

2.11 We have successfully commenced re-development of Bury's Educational Psychology service: we have appointed a Deputy Principal Educational Psychologist (EP), our Principal EP remains in Salford until we fully migrate our service. It is our intention to have a standalone Bury service by Autumn 2024.

2.12 By the end of September, our Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) team will be fully permanent, with no agency staff which will support better relationships with families and stakeholders.

2.13 We have received approval for Phase 2 of our Autism in Schools Project which will see 3 further mainstream schools having ASC support as part of a whole school approach, in addition to the 3 schools that were part of phase 1. Phase 2 will be operational from October 2023. We remain part of the GM network around ASC to ensure best practice.

2.14 Health have launched the Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) now established in wave one schools, wave two is mobilising, this will see the teams operating across 30% of Bury schools. As part of the offer there is a focus on emotional based school avoidance (EBSA) and a pathway is becoming embedded. Further to this, a successful system business case was recently developed and was agreed by the ICB for £1.4m investment into Bury CAHMs over 2 years to support development of a robust core offer to 18 and an increase in therapies.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

3.1 Scrutiny Committee is asked to note progress made.

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**List of Background Papers:-**

Graduated Approach Toolkit  
Local Offer  
SEND Delivery Plan 2023-24

**Contact Details:-**

*[Report Author]*

Executive Director sign off Date:\_\_\_\_\_

JET Meeting Date:\_\_\_\_\_