

SCRUTINY REPORT

MEETING: CYP Scrutiny

DATE: 7th January 2026

SUBJECT: Education and Inclusion Strategy

REPORT FROM: Ben Dunne (Director of Early Years, Education and Skills)

CONTACT OFFICER: n/a

1.0 BACKGROUND

Bury Council's Inclusion Strategy builds on the borough's wider *LET'S Do It! 2030* vision, which places inclusion at the centre of its ambitions for community wellbeing, equality and improved life chances. The strategy was developed following an independent review of equalities practice and extensive consultation with staff groups, community organisations and service users, resulting in a shared approach to promoting equality, diversity and human rights across all services. It aims to ensure that every child and young person, regardless of background, identity or circumstance has the opportunity to reach their potential, are happy, healthy and safe and able to make the best use of their skills to lead independent and successful lives.

2.0 ISSUES

The Education and Inclusion Strategy highlights several key challenges that continue to influence progress. Persistent disparities in outcomes among different communities—including socio-economic disadvantage, racial inequality and barriers faced by care leavers, carers, and children and young people with more complex needs, require sustained, targeted action. The council also faces operational challenges around how services engage with the public, ensuring consistency across departments, and embedding inclusive practice in organisational culture. Additionally, achieving a more diverse workforce and improving data-driven decision making remain central priorities, particularly as the authority works to meet both statutory requirements and the expectations set out in its borough-wide inclusion commitments.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Overall, the Education and Inclusion Strategy represents a significant step toward ensuring that all children and young people benefit from the borough's future prosperity and improved academic outcomes with a clear framework for addressing inequality and improving access to education, services and opportunities. Progress will depend on strong leadership, effective partnership working and continued community involvement to ensure that inclusive practice translates into measurable improvement. The strategy's focus on shared accountability, strengthened engagement and equitable service delivery provides a robust foundation for future action, but ongoing scrutiny, resourcing and transparency will be crucial for turning ambition into impact

List of Background Papers:-

Education and Inclusion Strategy

Contact Details:-

Ben Dunne (Director of Early Years, Education and Skills

Executive Director sign off Date:_____

JET Meeting Date:_____