

# SCRUTINY REPORT

**MEETING:** Children and Young People Scrutiny  
**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Education and Inclusion Strategy Delivery Plan  
**REPORT FROM:** Ben Dunne Director of Education and Skills

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

The Education and Inclusion Strategy Delivery Plan sets out how Bury Council and its partners will deliver the borough's shared commitments to an inclusive, safe, effective, collaborative and sustainable education system.

The plan translates the high-level strategy into a detailed programme of delivery across Early Years, Schools, Alternative Provision, Post-16 and whole-system partnership work, with clear actions, intended outcomes, and measurable KPIs.

The Delivery Plan is designed to:

- Strengthen early identification, inclusion and multi-agency collaboration.
- Improve attendance, safeguarding, curriculum quality and outcomes.
- Expand sufficiency of mainstream, specialist and alternative provision.
- Support the workforce through training, networks and leadership development.
- Ensure long-term planning for sufficiency, sustainability and financial resilience.

This version is presented to Scrutiny as a draft working document, reflecting extensive cross-system development and alignment with statutory requirements, Ofsted expectations and national reforms.

## 2.0 ISSUES

### 1. Scale and complexity of the delivery programme

The plan contains a large number of actions, spanning multiple sectors and agencies. Ensuring alignment, consistency and monitoring across the system will require clear governance, capacity and phased prioritisation.

### 2. Data quality, tracking and performance management

Many KPIs rely on improved data flows between settings, partners and systems. Strengthening data management, shared dashboards and consistent returns will be critical for meaningful oversight.

### 3. Workforce capacity and sustainability

Delivery depends heavily on workforce development across SEND, safeguarding, teaching, leadership and specialist support services. Recruitment, retention and access to high-quality CPD remain ongoing pressures.

### 4. Inclusion pressures and demand for specialist provision

Increasing complexity of need, rising EHCP numbers and pressures on mainstream inclusion highlight the importance of implementing the revised OAIP, enhancing outreach, and expanding specialist and AP provision in a planned way.

### **5. Attendance, behaviour and safeguarding challenges**

The plan includes ambitious improvements to attendance, behaviour and safeguarding practice. Sustained improvement will require consistent implementation across all settings and strong multi-agency coordination.

### **6. Sufficiency and financial risk across Early Years, schools and AP**

Falling rolls in parts of the system, Early Years market fragility, demand for SEND places, and reliance on out-of-area specialist provision present long-term risks that require ongoing monitoring and collaboration with providers.

### **7. Need for clear prioritisation and phasing**

Given the volume of actions, there is a need to identify:

- Immediate/short-term priorities
- Medium-term system changes
- Longer-term structural or strategic goals

This will support realistic delivery and manageable oversight.

## **3.0 CONCLUSION**

The Delivery Plan provides a comprehensive and ambitious framework to implement Bury's Education and Inclusion Strategy. It reflects strong partnership engagement and aligns with local priorities, statutory duties and national reforms.

Given the breadth of work, the next steps will be to:

- Finalise and streamline the plan,
- Agree governance and reporting arrangements,
- Prioritise actions for phased delivery,
- Ensure capacity and data-tracking mechanisms are in place.

Scrutiny may wish to provide feedback on the clarity, prioritisation and measurability of the plan to support effective implementation and oversight.

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### **List of Background Papers:-**

N/A