

SCHOOLS FORUM



Report subject	Update –Mainstream SEND Banding Review
Meeting date	12 November 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The review of the Mainstream SEND Bandings and Descriptors is part of the SEND transformation work that is underway.</p> <p>The main purpose of the review is to work in partnership to support BCP in delivering its commitment and aspiration of BCP being an inclusive place for SEND children and young people to thrive and be educated within; resulting in the long-term reduction of the overall overspend in the High Needs Block Budget.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>The Schools Forum note the progress update</p>
Reason for recommendations	To ensure that the Schools Forum is kept informed of the progress made so far.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Nicola Greene
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Update

Background

1. The review of the Mainstream SEND Bandings and Descriptors is part of the SEND transformation work that is underway and links in closely with the work that is currently being undertaken to address the deficit in the High Needs Block.
2. As discussed at the previous School Forum (14th September 2021), a working group has since been established to take forward the review. Members of the working group includes Officers from BCP Council, School and partner agency representatives all of whom have either been nominated by the Corporate Director of Children's Services, the Director of Education and members of the Schools Forum.
3. The main purpose of the review is to work in partnership to support BCP in delivering its commitment and aspiration of BCP being an inclusive place for SEND children and young people to thrive and be educated within; resulting in the long-term reduction of the overall overspend in the High Needs Block Budget. This is to be achieved by the provision of better support to Mainstream Schools to meet the needs of SEND children and young people residing in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole local authority area.
4. The Terms of Reference for the working group is currently being finalised.
5. Since its establishment the working group has made the following progress:
 - 3 sub-working have been formed and each group is responsible for:
 - **Descriptors** – Revising the current banding descriptors.
 - **Finance and Data** – Financial modelling, SEND data and cost analysis.
 - **Processes** – Review and revision of current processes followed by the BCP SEND Teams, Schools and Parents/Carers.
 - Research has been undertaken into bandings and matrix methods adopted by other Local Authorities to inform BCP's way forward
 - Draft Descriptors are in development
 - Timeline has been drafted
 - Consultation plans are in development
6. A further progress update will be provided at the next meeting in January 2022.

Options Appraisal

1. No options appraisal has been undertaken as this is a progress update

Summary of financial implications

2. Not applicable at present

Summary of legal implications

3. Currently not applicable as this is a progress update

Summary of human resources implications

4. Currently not applicable as this is a progress update

Summary of sustainability impact

5. Currently not applicable as this is a progress update

Summary of public health implications

6. Currently not applicable as this is a progress update

Summary of equality implications

7. Currently not applicable as this is a progress update

Summary of risk assessment

8. Currently not applicable as this is a progress update

Background papers

None available

Appendices

Presentation attached