

## Briefing Paper for Schools Forum

14<sup>th</sup> March 2013

### Expectations for SEND Green Paper Pathfinders during the extension period (April 2013-Sept 2014)

Wiltshire Council has Pathfinder Status for the implementation of the SEND Green Paper. The Pathfinder has now been extended until September 2014 and this paper outlines the expectations of pathfinder authorities during that extension period.

DfE has placed explicit requirements on all pathfinders as part of the condition of the grant for the extension of the pathfinder programme. This is to allow more time to refine approaches to assessment and planning, scale up test approaches to whole areas and broader age ranges, and build on new local offers. The extension also enables pathfinders to inform the legislative reforms that are due to come into effect from September 2014.

This briefing note summaries these key requirements.

#### Overview of key expectations

The anticipated timescale for legislative reform means that Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), [in Wiltshire this is called a "My Plan"], may need to be offered to all new referrals, including statutory SEN assessments, in all areas as early as September 2014. It is vital that pathfinders lead the way and fully implement new approaches at a quicker pace than other areas. Hence pathfinders are expected to:

- Move rapidly towards the integrated delivery structure that the local authority and its partners will need in order to deliver fully the reforms. Lessons learned in scaling up to authority-wide delivery and the resulting service integration and partnership challenges will provide invaluable lessons for other local authorities.
- From the end of June 2013, offer personal (notional) budgets to all those with a new EHCP.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, offer all new referred children and young people the option of following the integrated assessment and EHCP pathway, rather than the existing Statement of SEN or Learning Disability Assessment (LDA) process (whilst recognising that the protections of the 1996 Education Act continue to apply until new legislation is commenced).
- From September 2013 onwards, work towards converting existing statements and LDAs to the new process where appropriate and where agreed with families and young people. There is currently no fixed deadline for completing conversions, pending national decisions on transitional arrangements for the Children and Families Bill.
- During 2013-14, develop and refine their initial/draft Local Offer (a statement available to all parents describing services that are available and how they may be accessed) due to be published by the end of March 2014, so that by December 2013 it covers as many services as feasibly possible.
- Pathfinders are expected to test across the full age range of 0 - 25 and look to include children and young people with a breadth of different needs, across education, health and social care. Number of cases to be escalated.
- Extensive and routine co-working with schools and early years settings, and commissioners and providers of health services covering all age ranges.
- Continue to report on progress to Mott MacDonald and SQW (DfE consultants). Update Mott MacDonald regularly on progress in moving towards full implementation, share learnings and case studies and publish on LA website detail of cohort of families in pathfinder.

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