

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 06 June 2023

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SEND Accelerated Progress Plan</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All wards		
<b>Author:</b> Reena Bhogal-Welsh	<b>Job title:</b> Direction Education and Skills		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Asher Craig Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Children’s Services, Education and Equalities	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Abi Gbago, Executive Director Children and Education (DCS)		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> Other			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet			
<p><b>Purpose of Report:</b></p> <p>The Ofsted and CQC SEND local area inspection <a href="#">revisit</a> in October 2022, found that Bristol had not made sufficient progress in the previously identified area of significant weakness around the difficult relationship with parents and carers.</p> <p>This report presents the Accelerated Progress Plan required by the Department for Education, which sets out how the Bristol local area partners aims to address this area of weakness and how Bristol’s local area SEND governance can assure itself that progress is being made at a sufficient pace and delivering the necessary impact.</p>			
<p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p> <p><b>1. Background</b></p> <p>Between 3 and 7 of October 2022 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission reinspected Bristol to understand whether sufficient progress had been made in addressing each of the five areas of significant weakness that were identified in the <a href="#">2019 SEND local area inspection</a>. The <a href="#">revisit report</a> found that the local area had made sufficient progress in addressing four of the five areas. It also told us that the difficult relationships with parents and carers found at the last inspection had continued and that this still affected the quality of co-production that takes place between area leaders and parent and carers.</p> <p>The Accelerated Progress Plan (APP), provided at Appendix A.1, sets out how we aim to address this area of weakness and how Bristol’s local area SEND governance can assure itself and the Department for Education (DfE) that progress is being made at a sufficient pace and delivering the necessary impact.</p> <p>On May 5 2023 DfE concluded that the Plan sets out how Bristol will tackle the remaining area of weakness identified during the revisit and deemed it fit for purpose.</p> <p><b>2. Accelerated Progress Plan</b></p> <p>The Plan has been developed with key local area partners and has been informed by working with parents and carers and using their feedback. The Plan links to the Bristol’s Belonging in Education priorities and underpins Bristol’s SEND strategy to support and empower disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs to reach their full potential and have healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives.</p> <p>Parents and carers tell us that improving trust and relationships across the local area goes hand in hand with</p>			

developing SEND services and improving local area responses to statutory timeframes and expectations. The APP responds to this and is delivered across four key objectives:

### **1. Formalised strategic parent carer forum (PCF) arrangements**

To have formal strategic parent carer forum arrangements in place that represent the diverse communities of Bristol. The parent carer forum will be working in collaboration with local area partners with agreed ways of working and incorporated into formal local area SEND governance.

### **2. Co-production and communication with parents and carers**

There will be clear shared approaches to co-production, participation, engagement, and collaboration with parents and carers across the local area.

All future policy and service changes will give the opportunity for children and young people with SEND and parent carer representatives to be part of the process.

### **3. listening to and working with parents to improve SEND services and the experiences of parents, carers and children**

The views and experiences of parents and carers are understood and, alongside available business intelligence, are used to improve the quality of SEND services

### **4. Workforce and culture**

Local area partners have embedded ways of working and continuous improvement arrangements that prioritise relationships with children with SEND and their families.

The Plan sets out high priority actions local area partners will undertake over the next 12 months under each of these objectives and how progress will be measured and the impact of changes understood.

The Plan will be published on Bristol's local offer website and a easy read version made available.

### **3. Governance and monitoring**

Improvement identified in this action plan will be delivered with operational oversight by the SEND Partnership Group. The SEND Improvement Board will monitor and will be accountable for overall progress, supported by additional oversight from DfE and NHSE SEND improvement advisors

Key performance measures and relevant qualitative information that will be used to understand progress are identified in the plan. The Plan also sets out the ambition for the Parent Carer Forum to become an integral part of local area SEND governance arrangements, empowered to support the collation and reporting of some of this information and to support co-production of key elements within the Plan.

The Department for Education will formally monitor progress over the life of the Plan to judge whether sufficient progress is being made.

### **4. Progress**

While the Plan was in its development phase work has been ongoing to improve our relationships with parents and carers and how we co-produce better services for children with SEND.

Bristol Parent Carers have now been formally approved by DfE to provide the parent carer forum function for Bristol and are being adopted with the SEND local area governance accordingly. This will be crucial in supporting and enhancing delivery of the Plan, including how we better plan our engagement and co-design with families, how we improve communication, and how improve parent and carers' experiences of our services. An area of initial focus is how we improve the complaints processes to include parents and carers to enable better resolution and oversight from area partners.

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the SEND Accelerated Progress Plan as set out in Appendix A1.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

The Accelerated Progress Plan will perform a critical role in delivering corporate strategy commitments under the theme for Children and young people: A city where every child belongs and every child gets the best start in life, whatever circumstances they were born into.

The strategy sets out commitment to continue our improvement journey around our SEND provision and to co-design appropriate support with children and families to meet their needs. We want to create the right conditions that will enable more young people with SEND and from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter further education, employment, or training.

**City Benefits:**

The plan will drive improvement in services and outcomes for children and families in Bristol and support our commitment to value diversity and reduce educational inequality at all stages of education and ensure high quality specialist provision is effectively targeted.

**Consultation Details:**

The content has been discussed with Lead Member, relevant service areas, partners, parents and carer groups and an update will be provided to the DfE.

**Background Documents:**

[Local Area SEND Inspection Revisit Report Bristol October 2022](#)

[Local Area SEND Inspection October 2019](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£N/A	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	N/A
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£N/A	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	N/A
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**

**1. Finance Advice:** The report does not present any direct financial implications. Actions from the plan will be assessed individually for financial impact as they arise and need to be managed from within approved budgets.

**Finance Business Partner:** Andrew Osei, Finance Business Partner 22 May 2023.

**2. Legal Advice:** The report and Plan comply with the Council's legal duties. Ofsted and the CQC carried out the joint inspection pursuant to section 20(1)(a) of the Children Act 2004. Inspectors assess the extent to which local area partners are complying with relevant legal duties relating to arrangements for children and young people with SEND. Regulations require that where the Chief Inspector determines that a written statement of proposed action should be made, the principal authority must make that statement within 70 working days of receiving the report. The authority must send the written statement to the Chief Inspector of Schools, to any other person or body who conducted the review, and to the Secretary of State. The principal authority and all the persons or bodies who cooperated with the principal authority in making the written statement must publish it on their website and supply a copy to a member of the public, on demand, for a reasonable charge.

<b>Legal Team Leader:</b> Nancy Rollason, Head of Legal Services 18 May 2023		
<b>3. Implications on IT:</b> I can see no implications on IT in regards to this activity.		
<b>IT Team Leader:</b> Gavin Arbuckle Head of Service IT Operations 19 May 2023		
<b>4. HR Advice:</b> The report is requesting that Cabinet note the SEND Accelerated Progress Plan in response to insufficient progress made against the five areas of significant weakness. There are no significant HR implications arising from this report for Bristol City Council employees.		
<b>HR Partner:</b> Lorna Laing, 17 May 2023		
<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Abi Gbago, Executive Director Children’s and Education	17 May 2023
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Asher Craig Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Children’s Services, Education and Equalities	17 May 2023
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off</b>	Mayor’s Office	26 May 2023

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b> A. SEND Accelerated Progress Plan	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>