

**REPORT FOR: EDUCATION STRATEGY  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

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**Date of Meeting:** 27 June 2012

**Subject:** **INFORMATION REPORT**  
SEN and Disability Green Paper -  
progress and next steps

**Responsible Officer:** Roger Rickman, Divisional Director,  
Special Needs Services, Children and  
Families

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** None

## **Section 1 – Summary**

In March 2011 the government published the green paper *Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability*.

*Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability – progress and next steps* was published in May 2012 and sets out a summary of the key responses to the consultation questions in the green paper, current progress and further plans.

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

Around 2,400 responses were received to the Green Paper consultation from a wide range of individuals and organisations.

There was strong support for the analysis of the problems and issues and the proposals although with a recognition of the tight financial climate and reform elsewhere.

The government's vision for change is a system in which:

- children's special educational needs are picked up early and support is routinely put in place quickly;
- staff have the knowledge, understanding and skills to provide the right support for children and young people who have SEN or are disabled, wherever they are;
- parents know what they can reasonably expect their local school, local college, local authority and local services to provide, without them having to fight for it;
- for more complex needs, an integrated assessment and a single Education, Health and Care Plan from birth to 25 years; and,
- greater control for parents over the services they and their family use.

The Green Paper commitments are that by 2014 the following will be introduced:

- a single assessment process which is more streamlined, better involves children, young people and their families is completed quickly;
- an Education, Health and care Plan which brings services together and is focused on improving outcomes; and,
- an offer of a personal budget for families with an Education, Health and care Plan.

It is intended to introduce legislation through a Children and Families Bill in this session of parliament to implement the changes to the law required for the Green Paper reforms from 2014.

## **Section 3 – Further Information**

In 2011 a pathfinder programme was set up with twenty local pathfinders, involving thirty-one local authorities and their health sector partners. An interim evaluation of the practice developed by the pathfinders will be

published by October 2012 with a final report in 2013 to assist and support local areas in implementing the reforms.

## **Section 4 – Financial Implications**

The introduction of legislation through the Children and Families Bill is likely to have significant financial implications, especially in respect of direct payments and the commissioning of services in conjunction with health. The financial impact of these legislative changes will need to be considered in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

## **Section 5 - Equalities Implications**

The changes that are expected to occur as a result of the legislation will focus on achieving positive outcomes for the wide variety of children and young people from 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities and their families. A range of activity will support those with specific impairments, including autism, profound and multiple learning difficulties, speech, language and communication needs, hearing impairment, visual impairment, multi-sensory impairments and physical disabilities.

## **Section 6 – Corporate Priorities**

- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

Name: Emma Stabler



on behalf of the  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 1 June 2012

## **Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Roger Rickman, Divisional Director, Special Needs Services, Children and Families Directorate. Telephone 020 8966 6334

### **Background Paper:**

SEN and Disability Green Paper, Education Consultative Forum, 27 June 2011