



Changes to the way we support children with special educational needs or disability (SEND)

Bradford Council is making some changes to the way that its specialist teaching and support services support children and young adults with special educational needs or disability.

We have listened carefully to feedback from the public consultation, and amended our plans in light of what we have learned.

The new plans have now been approved by the council and will come into effect from 1 September 2018.

Why do we need to make changes?

We want children with SEND to do better in school and to have the chance to live a better life. This will help them have greater opportunities, to be more independent and have better emotional health. Bradford is one of the youngest populations in the country. As the number of children and young people continues to rise, so too does the number with SEND.

In the last 2 years the number of children and young people who have been put forward to be assessed for SEND has gone up by 60%.

The complexity of special needs in Bradford is also increasing.

At the same time, the financial support we get from the government has been squeezed. Bradford will only get half of the money it was expecting to get under new funding arrangements and will now only get £7.5m instead of £15m.

Staffing costs are rising significantly, largely due to increased National Insurance and pension costs, whilst the funding per pupil has remained more or less the same. This is affecting every council in the country.

Results of the consultation feedback

Consultation took place with interested parties in a number of ways:

- consultation events (day and evening sessions)
- young people sessions
- a consultation questionnaire
- a letter to parents/carers with an education health and care plan (EHCP) email facility for
- parents and partners to contribute their views.

The council has listened carefully to stakeholders' feedback, and the changes we plan to make address this wherever possible. The main areas of feedback that were raised are summarised on page 2 of this update. More details on the consultation are available in the full report to Executive which is on the [council's website](#).

What you said...

What will happen as a result...

Is enough resource being given to SEND services?

What will happen to waiting times for an education health and care plan (EHCP)?

Specialist teaching support services are involved in the assessment of a child's education health and care plan and there will be no change to this duty. The special educational needs assessment team and the current 14-19 SEND vulnerable children's team are outside the scope of the changes.

Parents value portage services and don't want to see this service diluted or isolated

There will now be six full-time portage home visitors, an increase from the original proposals of four .

Should the service have a better balance of high and low incidence?

There are more staff in the high incidence team compared to the low incidence team.

Will the need to generate income of 30% lead to inequality of provision?

We are developing a trading model based on the non-statutory teams within the new service.

Can the new services generate income of 30% as EHCP services must be free?

We will be gathering views to look at ways the teams could generate income.

Teaching support services will continue to work closely with schools to make sure statutory duties are delivered. The council will continue to have the statutory duty to maintain Bradford EHCPs.

Would having a low incidence team increase the number of children who are home educated?

There is no evidence the plans would increase numbers of children and young people who are home educated. Parents choose to home educate for many reasons.

How would a parent support a child whose needs crossed two of the proposed areas?

There will be one new service so where there are children with a range of needs the service will be able to co-ordinate their joint support more efficiently.

What if a mainstream school refused a child if it meant having to pay for additional support? This could cause disruption to a child's learning.

If a child's parents or a young person makes a request for a specific nursery, school or post-16 institution to be named in their EHCP, the council must comply with that preference unless:

- It was unsuitable for their age, ability, aptitude or SEN; or
- Their attendance was incompatible with the efficient education of others or the efficient use of resources.

Parents prefer one point of contact for specialist services.

The service will provide one point of contact for the referral pathway.

How will you manage the quality of time spent with families and make sure locality areas have the right level of support?

Services will be coordinated centrally but teams will work closely with Family Hub locality areas.

What will change?

The teaching and support services for children and young people (aged 0 to 25) who have SEND will be brought together in one service – The SEND Inclusive Education Service.

The SEND Inclusive Education Service will be split into two teams, who will work closely together to support children and their families.

One team will support children who have the types of special educational needs we see most often and include support for very young children

This team will be called the High Incidence Team. Their work will include:

- Children with autism, learning disabilities and difficulties.
- Children with social, emotional and mental health needs.
- Portage home visitors – a pre-school home visiting support service for young children and their families.
- Equality and access (Inclusion) officers who work with early education settings such as day care nurseries.

The other team will support children who have the types of special educational needs we see less often but are complex. This team will be called the Low Incidence Team. Their work will include:

- Hearing impairment.
- Visual impairment.
- Multi-sensory impairment.
- Physical and medical needs.

Both teams will also offer support to young people throughout their journey through school, and into training, further education and employment. Both of the teams will work closely together as part of the SEND Inclusive Education Service.

These teams will continue to support all the statutory work that the Council has to provide. Some of the team will generate income, where the work is not legally required and they will look at providing activities such as training, which will help schools, staff and partners to better meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

There will be a single point of contact for families, children, schools and other settings. This will mean better communication between services, more efficiency and a more joined-up approach to children and young people with SEND.

The SEND Inclusive Education Service will work closely with the Prevention and Early Help service in their four local hubs - Keighley and Shipley, Bradford East, Bradford West and Bradford South.

There will be a much clearer pathway for children and young people to be referred between the two services. Communication will be better and there will be a more joined-up approach.

These changes should mean that we are able to keep the expertise and experience of our specialist SEND teams within the district. They will make sure that all children and young people with SEND get high quality support from the full range of trained specialist staff.

Our aim is that all children and young people with SEND have greater opportunities to be more independent, have better emotional health and can live their lives to the full.

More information

Visit [Transforming SEND teaching support services](#) for more information about the programme.

Support for council staff is available on Bradnet, and for partners on our [Training, support and resources for staff](#) page, or email questions@bradford.gov.uk

The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille.

Please call 01274 432643 or 439287

