

# The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Green Paper

**Support and aspiration – A new approach to special educational needs and disability**



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# The SEND Green Paper

- Purpose of the SEND Green Paper is to:
  - ❖ Support fundamental changes to the SEN and disability system
  - ❖ Identify children's needs earlier, develop fairer and more transparent funding arrangements & streamline assessments
- Published in March 2011 for consultation
- Consultation lasted for 16 weeks and closed on 30th June 2011
- 2,378 responses (26% from parents and parent organisations)
- Response from parents, teachers and professionals is supportive of the overarching vision



# Why does the system need to change?

- Around 2 million children and young people are identified as having a special educational need or are disabled
- Their life outcomes are disproportionately poor
- Post-16 young people with SEN are more than twice as likely to be NEET as those without
- Young people can feel frustrated by a lack of the right help at school or from other services
- Children's support needs can be identified late
- Parents say the system is bureaucratic, bewildering and adversarial
- Parents have limited choices about the best schools and care

# Overarching Proposals

## **A radically different system that:**

- Supports better life outcomes for young people
- Gives parents more confidence by giving them control
- Transfers powers to front-line professionals and local communities

## **The Green Paper proposes:**

- A new approach to identifying SEN
- A single 'Education, Health and Care Plan'
- A local offer of all services available
- Parents to have the option of a personal budget by 2014
- Giving parents a real choice of school
- Greater independence to the assessment of children's needs

# Five Chapters

1. Early identification and assessment
2. Giving parents control
3. Learning and achieving
4. Preparing for adulthood
5. Services working together for families

# 1. Early identification and assessment

**Children's needs should be identified as early as possible so that the right support is put in place for them and their family**

## KEY PROPOSALS

- **Help professionals identify problems as they emerge**, with a robust system of early checks for children involving education, health and social care
- **Put in place a reformed assessment process** for children with complex needs, resulting in an Education, Health and Care Plan' for 0-25yrs focusing on outcomes, giving parents the same statutory protection as the current statement of SEN
- **Speed up the process** for families, by reducing the time limit for statutory assessments

## 2. Giving parents control

**Parents to be at the heart of decisions made about their child and feel confident that support will be put in place**

### KEY PROPOSALS

- **Make services more transparent for families**, with local services publishing a 'local offer' of what is available
- Strengthen the choice and control given to parents, with the option of **personal budgets** by 2014 for all families with children with a statement of SEN or a new single plan
- **Support families through the system**, with trained key workers to help parents navigate services
- Ensure parents have a real **choice of a range of schools**
- Ensure that parents and local authorities **always attempt mediation** before making an appeal to the Tribunal

# 3. Learning and achieving

**All children must receive a high quality education whether in mainstream or special schools**

## KEY PROPOSALS

- **Address over-identification** of SEN with a new single early years-setting and school-based SEN category to replace School Action and School Action Plus
- **Sharpen accountability** on progress for the lowest attainers, introducing a new measure into school performance tables
- Better equip teachers and support staff to address SEN and poor behaviour through **training**
- **Give schools more autonomy** to innovate and transform SEN provision, and allow special schools to become Academies

# 4. Preparing for adulthood

**All young people should make a successful transition to adulthood and enjoy making a full contribution to society**

## KEY PROPOSALS

- Increase the range and quality of **learning opportunities**
- Provide effective help for young people to move into **employment**
- **Improve joint working** across paediatric and adult health services, with GPs providing annual health checks for disabled young people over 16
- Help young people to **live independently** by working across government to build on the Independent Living Strategy



# 5. Services working together for families

**The Green Paper vision requires a strong role for local government alongside schools, health agencies and social care**

## **KEY PROPOSALS**

- Set out a strong role for **local authorities as champions** of families and vulnerable children
- Encourage **greater collaboration** between local authorities and between services in local areas
- Explore a national framework for funding specialist provision for children with SEN that **improves consistency** across areas and allows continued local flexibility

# SEND Pathfinders

- Following the consultation period, local authorities and their health partners were invited to submit an application to become a pathfinder
- 20 pathfinders across England, covering 31 local authorities and their Primary Care Trust (PCT)
- Each pathfinder has a set of proposals to test, set out by Government
- In London, there are 3 pathfinders; Lewisham, Greenwich and Bromley/Bexley (joint pathfinder)
- Pathfinder projects will run for 2 years and when completed, the findings from all 20 pathfinder projects will be reviewed by the Government
- Government will consider the outcomes and then respond with their decisions about how the new system should run

# Bromley/Bexley Pathfinder

Bromley/Bexley joint pathfinder has been asked to test:

- How we move from current SEN framework to new multi-agency plans from 0-25 years
- Personal budgets
- Banded Funding
- Support to Parents, children and young people

Core group with representatives from

- Children's Disability
- Early Years
- Parent Voice
- Health
- Special Educational Needs
- Education Commissioning
- Adult Social Care
- Transition

# Bromley/Bexley Pathfinder (2)

## **Eight Work Streams:**

1. Parents, Children's and Young People Involvement
  2. Personal Budgets
  3. Banded Funding
  4. Early Support and Key Working
  5. Transition from Children's to Adult Services
  6. Single Plan and Assessment
  7. Panel Processes
  8. Commissioning and Achieving a Local Offer
- Work Streams are currently in planning stage
  - Parental involvement in all work streams

# Where to go for further information.....

**The SEND Green Paper:**

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/a0075339/sengreenpaper>

**Council for Disabled Children:**

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk>

**Preparing for Adulthood:**

<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/>

**National Development Team for Inclusion:**

<http://www.ndti.org.uk/>

**National Foundation for Educational Research:**

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/research/projects/SEN-transitions/>