

# Individual Executive Member Decision

---

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>SEN &amp; Disability Strategy 2013 - 2016</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Individual Executive Member Decision
<b>Date on which Decision is to be taken:</b>	31 July 2013
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	ID2667

**Purpose of Report:** To seek approval to the new SEN and Disability Strategy for Children and Young People for 2013 - 2016

**Recommended Action:** Approval is given to the Strategy

**Reason for decision to be taken:** An updated SEN and Disability Strategy is required.

**Other options considered:** N/A

**Key background documentation:** SEN & Disability Strategy for Children and Young People 2013-2016

Portfolio Member Details	
<b>Name &amp; Telephone No.:</b>	Councillor Irene Neill - Tel (0118) 971 2671
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	ineill@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
<b>Name:</b>	Jane Seymour
<b>Job Title:</b>	Service Manager, SEN and Disabled Children's Team
<b>Tel. No.:</b>	01635 519783
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	jseymour@westberks.gov.uk

## Implications

- Policy:** The priorities for development in the SEN and Disability Strategy are generally consistent with existing SEN policy. However, there will be some significant changes required by the draft Children and Families Bill which will change the way statutory assessments of special educational needs are carried out and will replace Statements of Special Educational Need with Education Health and Care Plans.
- Financial:** There are no immediate financial implications. Many of the activities referred to in the SEN and Disability Strategy can be managed within existing resources. Any activities which may have additional resource implications would be the subject of separate reports.
- Personnel:** No immediate implications.
- Legal/Procurement:** Some of the activities referred to in the strategy are new statutory duties resulting from the Children and Families Bill
- Property:** No implications
- Risk Management:** Not applicable at this stage

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes		Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Outcome</b> (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)				
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at <a href="http://www.westberks.gov.uk/eia">www.westberks.gov.uk/eia</a>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Not relevant to equality			<input type="checkbox"/>	

## Consultation Responses

### Members:

- Leader of Council:** Councillor Gordon Lundie
- Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:** Councillor Brian Bedwell
- Ward Members:** Not applicable

**Opposition  
Spokesperson:**

Councillor David Allen

**Local Stakeholders:**

**Officers Consulted:**

Ian Pearson

**Trade Union:**

Rosemary Culmer

<b>Is this item subject to call-in?</b>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
---	--	------------------------------

## Supporting Information

---

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's current SEN and Disability Strategy is out of date and needs to be updated.
- 1.2 The current Children and Families Bill will affect the way services are provided to children with SEN and disabilities. These new requirements will be incorporated in to the SEN and Disability Strategy.

### 2. Consultation on SEN and Disability Strategy

- 2.1 Permission was given through an Individual Member Decision in May 2013 to carry out a consultation with parents, schools and other stakeholders about the proposed priorities for the SEN & Disability Strategy.
- 2.2 A number of key priorities were identified together with a range of proposed areas of activity under each priority. These were set out in a consultation questionnaire. Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the priority areas, the degree of importance they would give each one and for any other comments.
- 2.3 158 responses were received. 59% were from parents, 35% were from schools and 6% were from other agencies.
- 2.4 There was wide support for the proposed activities within the strategy. A number of specific comments about particular areas of concern were made and these are reflected in section 5 of the strategy.
- 2.5 Focus group meetings for parents were held. Key themes from these meetings are also reflected in section 5 of the strategy.

### 3. SEN and Disability Strategy

- 3.1 The attached SEN and Disability Strategy outlines a three year strategy which has been designed to meet changing needs, respond to parents' concerns and also ensure that forthcoming SEN and disability legislation can be successfully implemented.
- 3.2 Consideration has been given to other relevant strategies and plans including the Council Plan, the Education Service Plan, the Children's Services Plan, the Adult Social Care Strategy and the Housing Strategy. The SEN and Disability Strategy for Children and Young People sits within the context of these wider strategies and plans.
- 3.3 Approval is sought for adoption of the strategy.

### 4. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 4.1 The proposed areas of activity outlined in the strategy should not have any negative effect on children and young people with disabilities as they are designed to improve services for this client group.

## **5. Conclusion**

5.1 It is recommended that the Strategy be approved.

### **Appendices**

---

Appendix A – SEN & Disability Strategy for Children and Young People 2013 – 2014

Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment