

**The Bromley Children and Young People Partnership is a
partnership of the following organisations:**

Bromley College of Further and Higher Education | Bromley Mytime | Bromley
Safeguarding Children Board Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum | Connexions
South London Sub Regional Unit Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership |
Jobcentre Plus | London Borough of Bromley London Probation Trust | Metropolitan Police
Service (Bromley) | NHS BromleyOrpington College | Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust |
Primary and Special SchoolsSecondary Schools | South London Healthcare NHS Trust

Children and Young People Services

A Guide for Parents and Carers in Bromley

to the Department of Health and the
Department for Education Special Educational
Needs and Disability Green Paper

Support and Aspiration

A new approach to
Special Educational Needs and Disability

This leaflet is also a guide for
all those working with children
and young people
February 2012



The Special Educational Needs and Disability Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration'.

The Green Paper represents the most radical reform to Special Educational Needs and Disability for 30 years. In Autumn 2011 the Department of Health and the Department for Education launched a significant Pathfinder programme to test proposed reforms to the services and systems which underpin support for children and young people with a disability or Special Educational Need (SEN).

For a copy of the Executive Summary of the Green Paper:

www.education.gov.uk

What is a Green Paper?

A Green Paper is a consultation document and sets out proposals for which the Government wishes to obtain public views and opinions. Following the consultation, to make change happen, new legislation may be required, or in some instances, strategies or initiatives to deliver proposed changes may be required.

How will the proposed changes be tested during the consultation process?

The Government asked Local Authorities to bid to become Pathfinders. A Pathfinder is a public sector organisation or Local Authority that has been chosen by a department of the Government to develop, test and expand new systems and strategies to shape future services.

The London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley have been successful in jointly becoming one of 21 Pathfinder pilot areas from Autumn 2011 to the end of March 2013. Each Pathfinder will test different proposals and how they will work with different groups of children and young people with SEN and Disability and their families. Special Educational Needs and Disability Pathfinders are being led jointly by Local Authorities and NHS Primary Care Trusts, working together in a multi-agency partnership.

www.bromley.gov.uk, www.bexley.gov.uk, www.selondon.nhs.net

Why are changes to existing services and systems needed?

The Government recognises the hopes and aspirations of children and young people who are disabled or have Special Educational Needs. Whilst there is much existing excellent practice, there are always ways to build on and improve existing ways of working. The Government also wants to give every child and young person the best chance to succeed, so they reach their full potential when they transition to adult life.



What is the Green Paper vision?

A radically different system that:

Supports better life outcomes for young people

Gives parents more confidence by giving them control

Transfers power to frontline professionals and to local communities

The Green Paper proposes:

A new approach to identifying SEN

A single assessment process and '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

What do the proposals mean?

A new approach to identifying SEN :

A new, single category of Special Educational Needs for early years settings and schools which will build on the proposed reforms to the education system to make schools accountable for ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

A new single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan (Single Plan):

It is proposed that the new Single Plan will replace the statutory Special Educational Needs Assessment and Statement by 2014.

All Pathfinders are trialling the Single Plan with a range of children and young people with different levels of need. Bromley will be testing the plan with children and young people who have complex needs who will require considerable on-going specialist support from across Education, Health (including therapies) and Social Care and will continue to do so to reach their potential in adult life.

The new plan will be from birth to the age of 25 and will be reviewed regularly in response to changing needs. The Single Plan will have a focus on outcomes for the child or young person. It is envisaged local services will work in a multi-agency way to develop a straightforward plan which recognises the support that is required and the aspiration families have for their child.

Local Authorities and other services will provide a local offer of the support available:

Information will be provided to families as to which services are available to support children and young people with SEN or a disability so that families are clear about the support on offer and how this is accessed.

Optional Personal Budgets by 2014:

It is envisaged families of children with the new Education, Health and Care Plan will be offered the option of a personal budget by 2014 to enable them to have more choice and control over the services they need for their child and how they are provided. It is a proposal

which could enable a service user to have more flexibility over the funding allocated to their plan. Personal Budgets are intended to draw funding streams together, to ensure a multi-agency package of support.

Transfer power to people working with you or your child and to local communities:

So that professionals working with your child have the resources to be creative and use their own judgement, the proposals mean that unnecessary rules and regulations will be significantly reduced. Multi-agency professionals, together with colleagues in the voluntary and community sector can work together, giving parents and communities increased influence over local services.

It is envisaged parents will have a clear choice of school:

Parents of children with SEN or disability, will have the ability to express a preference for any tax-payer funded provision (not independent schools) this includes state funded schools, Academies, Free Schools and special schools. However, the preference expressed must meet the needs of the child, be an efficient use of resources and be compatible with the education of other children.

The introduction of greater independence to the assessment of children's needs:

The Pathfinders are being asked to test how assessment could become more independent, for example, by including the voluntary sector.



What are Bromley and Bexley testing?

Pathfinder status was achieved for Bromley and Bexley in September 2011 and will run until March 2013. A detailed action plan will bring together the work of Bromley and Bexley. The Bromley Pathfinder programme will initially concentrate on the introduction of a Single Plan for Education, Health and Social Care for children and young people with complex needs. Bexley are developing their plans and will initially focus upon Personal Budgets. All Pathfinders have been asked to test the Single Plan with different groups of children and young people.

Bromley and Bexley Pathfinder has also been asked to test:

- **Support to children, young people, parents and carers:** A range of information will be offered to parents and carers in a timely and appropriate manner, to enable them to navigate the new systems being developed. Keyworkers will be trained to offer support to families during key transition stages of a child or young person's life, offering a 'Team around the Child' approach and multi-agency support through Family Support Plans.
- **Banded Funding:** the development of a national banding framework for Special Educational Needs and disability provision, including schools, so that this is not a postcode lottery. The framework will set out clear descriptors of provision available to children and young people with SEN or who have a disability.
- **Optional Personal Budgets:** providing the possibility of families having greater control over the funding applied to their child's package of support.

Bromley have also been allocated funding through the National Early Support and Keyworking tender. What does this mean?

The Green Paper acknowledges that the existing Early Support Programme (birth to five) is an example of best practice and has made a considerable difference to the families of very young children with complex needs. The Government have appointed the Early

Support Consortium, which includes over 50 voluntary, community, statutory and private sector organisations. The Consortium will work with the Green Paper Pathfinders to extend keyworking and the multi-agency holistic support the current programme delivers, developing it up through the age range from birth to 25 for children and young people with complex needs at key transition times. In Bromley we will also support the national agenda by working with some parents to learn from their journeys so that we are able to inform service provision and improve families' experiences.

It is the vision of the Early Support Consortium to develop the following areas:

- Working in partnership with parents and carers
- Family support
- Keyworking at key transition times in a child's or young persons life
- Develop existing Early Support materials for the older age group
- Multi-agency assessment and holistic support for families.

Bromley achieved national recognition for its work as an Early Support Pathfinder during 2003-2006. It now approaches an exciting phase to develop and test services and support for the most complex children and young people up through the age range and particularly at transition to adult life.



How will the Pathfinder programme be evaluated?

The Bromley and Bexley Pathfinder programme will be overseen by a multi-agency Steering Group who will meet regularly to monitor activity. In Bromley it will be led by Helen Norris, Head of Specialist Support & Disability Services. All Pathfinders are being supervised by national consultants, Mott McDonald.

How can parents be involved in the Pathfinder programme?

Parental involvement and engagement is at the heart of Pathfinder activity and they will be fully represented on the Steering Group by Bromley Parent Voice, a forum which facilitates two-way communication between parent, carers and service providers to shape decision making and planning for future provision.

For further information about the forum, or if you wish to participate in parent and carer workshops focusing on the Pathfinder programme please visit: www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk or contact Kay Moore, Parent Participation Officer, telephone 020 8776 3170
email: info@bromleyparentvoice.org.uk

The London Borough of Bromley together with their partners in Bexley are delighted to have been selected as a Pathfinder site for the Green Paper and Early Support. It is our aspiration that parents and carers will actively participate in the development of future processes which will support the best outcomes in life for children or young people with Special Educational Needs or a Disability.

For more information contact:

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Bromley Parent Voice

working in partnership to give parents and carers a voice