

Birmingham's Strategy for
SEND & Inclusion

Consultation Document

9th June – 31st July 2017

	Pages
Foreword	3
Introduction	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are we consulting on? • How will we consult people? • How long will this consultation run for? • Who will be affected by the results of this consultation? 	
Background Information	6
Section 1 – Our Proposals	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Vision • Our Mission • Our Objectives • Our Priorities 	10 10 11 15
Section 2 – Have your say	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How people can take part in this consultation and contact details 	

Foreword

I am delighted to introduce Birmingham's Strategy for SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disability) and Inclusion 2017-2020. This has been produced by the Inclusion Commission, set up by the City Council in 2016 to improve the services for these children and young people.

We have set out our Vision of what we seek to achieve, our Mission stating how to do this and the Strategy which outlines the actions we will take to achieve this.

A key feature of the Mission is a commitment to work in partnership to achieve the high quality provision that Birmingham's children, young people and their families deserve.

You are invited to contribute to the consultation taking place over the summer term in order to gather the views of stakeholders, including parents, children and young people and a wide range of professionals and practitioners. The Inclusion Commission will receive feedback in September 2017 to inform the final strategy and detailed plan of how it will be implemented.

Please take part in the consultation because we really want to hear your views.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Geoff Lindsay FBPoS, FAcSS, HonMBPsS
Chair, Inclusion Commission**

Introduction

What are we consulting on?

We are consulting on Birmingham's new Strategy for SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) and Inclusion and the proposed direction of travel, including the Vision, Mission, Objectives, Priorities and our plans so far.

The Local Authority is obliged under Section 30 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to keep its Local Offer under review and therefore the consultation responses where appropriate will be fed into that ongoing review.

How will we consult people?

1. We will be asking for views on our proposals from children, young people and families who use SEND services, parents, carers, city council staff, health partners, schools and settings
2. We will be consulting with a wide group of stakeholders from education, health, social care and we will make use of professional forums arranged during the consultation period as part of this.
3. We will work with our key stakeholders in schools, settings, providers and other professional bodies to identify the best way to consult with families of children and young people.
4. You can tell us your views by completing a questionnaire, taking part in consultation meetings, by emailing or telephoning us. We will listen to and take note of all your comments
5. We will publish a summary of comments received in an anonymous format, removing any personal details and explaining what we plan to do next. We will make this widely available to show where we have changed any proposals as a result of listening to people's views. Where we have not made changes to our proposals we will explain why this was the case.
6. When the consultation has closed, we will prepare a report to the Inclusion Commission about what we have found out. This will inform a further report to Cabinet on the final strategy and the plan for implementation. The Inclusion Commission was set up to undertake a review of SEND services in Birmingham including stakeholders from education, health, social care, parent/carer representatives and young people. The Cabinet is the governing body of the City Council, made up of elected councillors; it is responsible for decisions on all Council services.

How long will this consultation run for?

This consultation will begin on Friday 9th June and end Monday 31st July 2017 at midnight.

Who will be affected by the results of this consultation?

This consultation includes the following people

- Children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND)
- Parents, carers and families of children and young people who have SEND
- Birmingham City Council education and social care staff
- Health organisations in Birmingham (including NHS trusts and CCGs) and their staff involved in development of Education Health & Care Plans
- All Birmingham schools, including Governing bodies, Head Teachers, SENCOs
- Children's centres
- Early Years settings and providers
- Post 16 settings and providers
- Post 19 settings and providers
- Private, third sector and voluntary providers of services for children and young people who have SEND
- Youth offending teams

Background Information

Following the introduction of the Children and Families Act in 2014 and the Special Educational Needs & Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years in 2015, Birmingham has implemented a range of new assessment procedures to ensure that the needs of its most vulnerable children and young people are identified and met appropriately.

Implementing the Government's SEND reforms in our large diverse city has been very challenging. The whole system has been under great strain to try to meet deadlines and deliver within the allocated budget.

Birmingham City Council members and officers identified the need for a root and branch review of the city's approach to making provision for children and young people with SEND. As a result, Birmingham City Council established an Inclusion Commission in October 2016 to explore the effectiveness of current arrangements in the City for children and young people who have SEND across the 0-25 age range and began to develop a new Inclusion Strategy. The work of the Commission has included early years settings, mainstream schools and colleges, resource bases, specialist providers, independent non-maintained schools and independent specialist colleges.

The SEND Review

A review of SEND services has been overseen by the Inclusion Commission which has been led by an independent Chair, Professor Geoff Lindsay from Warwick University. The Inclusion Commission Board comprises representatives from stakeholder groups including education, health, social care, parents, young people and Birmingham City Council members. The work of the Inclusion Commission has been informed by six work streams:

1. Learners with social emotional and mental health needs
2. SEN Assessment
3. High Needs funding
4. Specialist provision
5. SEN Support
6. Preparation for adulthood.

These work streams met during a period of three months from September to December 2016. The work streams were chaired by senior leaders from schools and Birmingham City Council. SEND4change, an independent organisation with expertise in understanding arrangements for children and young people with SEND, was commissioned by the City Council to facilitate a consultation exercise with a wide range of stakeholders. This has informed the

work of the Inclusion Commission and made recommendations about key priorities which should be included in a new strategic approach for inclusion in Birmingham.

Throughout the review process, the views of parents were actively sought and every effort was made to ensure that their voice is valued and heard and their views are embedded within the draft strategy. Parents' contributions were made either as members of work streams or as part of a separate event facilitated by the Parent Carer Forum. As plans move forward, it will be ensured that young people have also an opportunity to contribute. It was agreed there is a need for collective responsibility between the Inclusion Commission, Health, Providers, Services and the Local Authority in order to deliver the necessary changes.

From the outcomes of the review, a number of common themes emerged and there was consensus in the working groups about three key priorities which are needed to strengthen and improve the current arrangements for SEND across Birmingham. Building on this work, a joint vision statement has been developed with the Inclusion Commission to help set the overall direction of the strategy. From this a mission and series of objectives were agreed alongside the three key priorities. The Inclusion Commission has given agreement for the draft strategy, vision, mission, objectives, priorities and outline delivery plan to be issued more widely for formal consultation prior to drafting the final strategy.

(A) What is your interest in this consultation?

Are you: (Please tick as many boxes which apply)

A child, young person or adult up to 25 years,
with a special educational need and/or disability

(B) – If you are a child or young person, tick your age group below

0-4	5-10	11-15	16-18	19-25	Not applicable
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A parent or carer of a child or young person with
a special educational need and/or disability

(C) If you are a parent/carer, what age range are the children in your family? (tick as many as apply)

0-4	5-10	11-15	16-18	19-25	Not applicable
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(D) If you are a young person or parent/carer, what types of special educational needs or disabilities apply to you or your family (tick as many as apply)

Specific Learning Difficulty

Cognition & Learning Difficulty

Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

Speech Language & Communication Needs

Hearing Impairment

Visual Impairment

Multi-Sensory Impairment

Physical Disability

Autistic Spectrum Condition

(A) - Continued from overleaf

Birmingham City Council employee (non schools)

Councillor or MP

Health service (eg NHS or Clinical Commissioning Group)

Teacher or schools staff

School Governor

Early Years provider

Post 16 education provider

Post 19 education provider

Private or voluntary provider

**Other Interest –
please specify**

Section 1 – Our proposals

OUR VISION

Every child and young person aged 0-25 with a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) in Birmingham will have the opportunity to be happy, healthy and achieve their fullest potential, enabling them to participate in, and contribute to all aspects of life.

1a. Do you support our proposed Vision for Birmingham?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

1b. Please provide reasons for your answer

OUR MISSION

To implement an efficient and inclusive system where practitioners work with families, children and young people aged 0-25, to develop trust and confidence in order to build genuine and good quality partnerships. This will be achieved by practitioners from all sectors working together collaboratively to deliver the most appropriate local provision and support.

2a. Do you support our proposed Mission for Birmingham?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

2b. Please provide reasons for your answer

OUR OBJECTIVES

We have developed four objectives which outline what we want to achieve through this strategy:

- **We will develop joint commissioning to ensure resources are used fairly and effectively to provide maximum impact on outcomes.**

This means education, health and social care working together and pooling their money to ensure best value and outcomes for children, young people and families

3a. Do you agree or disagree with this objective?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

3b. Please provide reasons for your answer

3c. How will this affect you?

- **We will provide services that ensure the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities and their families are at the heart of all that we do. We aim to offer this as locally as possible.**

This means we will talk to you and involve you in planning and decision making.

4a. Do you agree or disagree with this objective?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

4b. Please provide reasons for your answer

4c How will this affect you?

- **It is our aim that all Birmingham mainstream provision will be welcoming, accessible and inclusive, adhering to the SEND Code of Practice, so that they can meet the needs of most children and young people aged 0-25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.**

This means you can expect your mainstream local school or setting to make every reasonable adjustment to meet the needs of your children or young people.

5a. Do you agree or disagree with this objective?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

5b. Please provide reasons for your answer

5c. How will this affect you?

- **We will develop flexible pathways to enable children and young people to access the right provision and services to meet their individual needs different stages. This will deliver the best possible outcomes, including education, employment and training, as young people move into adulthood.**

This means we will regularly review the type of provision that can best meet the needs of a child or young person and work with you to agree the best placement throughout the child or young person's education.

6a. Do you agree or disagree with this objective?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

6b. Please provide reasons for your answer

6c. How will this affect you?

OUR PRIORITIES

We have developed three key priorities which we will focus on to deliver the new strategy:

- **Develop a framework of SEND assessment and planning from 0-25 years to enable professionals and partners to meet the full range of individual need and raise achievement**

This means you can expect teachers and professionals to plan and effectively meet your child's special educational needs, including accessing extra funding, without always needing an Education Health and Care Plan.

Further information about what we are planning under Priority 1 can be found in the Draft Strategy page 16-17 and the Outline Delivery Plan.

7a. Do you agree or disagree with this priority?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

7b. Please provide reasons for your answer

7c. How will this affect you?

- **Ensure there is a sufficient and appropriate range of quality provision to meet the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 0-25 years and improve outcomes from early years to adulthood**

This means we will ensure there are enough good placements available in Birmingham for children and young people of all ages 0-25 to meet all levels of need.

Further information about what we are planning under Priority 2 can be found in the Draft Strategy page 18-19 and the Outline Delivery Plan.

8a. Do you agree or disagree with this priority?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

8b. Please provide reasons for your answer

8c. How will this affect you?

- **Develop a unified resource allocation system to distribute the range of SEND funding across all schools and settings in order to make the most effective use of available resources and maximise the impact on outcomes for young people**

This means we will develop a system to give funding to schools and settings, based on individual needs of children and young people, and make sure we can clearly see the difference the money has made.

Further information about what we are planning under Priority 3 can be found in the Draft Strategy page 20 and the Outline Delivery Plan

9a. Do you agree or disagree with this priority?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

9b. Please provide reasons for your answer

9c. How will this affect you?

10. Do you have any comments on any other aspect of our draft strategy and plans, or any ideas for making SEND services more effective?

About you

We would like you to tell us some things about you. You do not have to tell us if you do not want to, but if you do, it will help us to plan our services.

Which age group applies to you? (please tick one box only)

0-4	5-10	11-15	16-18	19-25	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39
40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+

What is your sex? (please tick one box only)

Male

Female

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more? (please tick one box only)

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

If yes, do any of these conditions or illnesses affect you in any of the following areas? (please tick all that apply)

1. Vision (e.g. blindness or partial sight)

2. Hearing (e.g. deafness or partial hearing)

3. Mobility (e.g. walking short distances or climbing stairs)

4. Dexterity (e.g. lifting and carrying objects,
using a keyboard)

5. Learning or understanding or concentrating

6. Memory

7. Mental Health

8. Stamina or breathing or fatigue

9. Socially or behaviourally (e.g. associated with

Autism, attention deficit disorder or Asperger's Syndrome)

10. Other (please write in)

What is your ethnic group? (please tick one box only)

White

English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Polish

Baltic States

Jewish

Other white European (including mixed European)

Any other White background (please write in)

Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean/African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed background (please write in)

Asian/ Asian British

Afghani

Bangladeshi

British Asian

Chinese

Filipino

Indian Sikh

Indian Other

Kashmiri

Pakistani

Sri Lankan

Vietnamese

Any other Asian background (please write in)

Black African/ Caribbean/ Black British

African

Black British

Caribbean

Somali

Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please write in)

Other ethnic group

Arab

Iranian

Kurdish

Yemeni

Any other ethnic group (please write in)

What is your sexual orientation (please tick one box only)

Bisexual

Gay or Lesbian

Heterosexual or Straight

Other

Prefer not to say

What is your religion or belief? (please tick one box only)

No religion

Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

Any other religion (please write in)

Thank you for taking the time to be part of this consultation.

Returning this Paper Questionnaire

Please post it to us at:

Birmingham's Strategy for SEND and Inclusion

PO Box 16465

Birmingham

B2 2DG

Completing an online version of the questionnaire:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/send-inclusion>

Section 2

Have your say

During the consultation period there are various ways in which you can find out more and give us your views. You can do this by:

Completing a consultation questionnaire online

You can complete an online version of the questionnaire and download copies of the consultation document **from 9th June 2017** at:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/send-inclusion>

Paper copies and other accessible formats

If you require a paper copy or a more accessible format such as an Easy Read version, please use the contact details at the bottom of the page.

Parent & Carer Meetings

Parents and Carers are invited to attend one of the public meetings below, at which a senior manager from Education services will explain the proposals.

Please book a place by emailing education@birmingham.gov.uk

Please let us know before the meeting if you have any special requirements, for example; an interpreter, a hearing loop or large print materials.

DATE	VENUE
Wed 5th July 2017 10:30am-12:30	North City - Venue tbc
Thurs 6th July 2017 11:00-13:00	South City - Venue tbc
Thurs 13th July 18:00-20:00	City Centre - Venue tbc

Schools, Settings and Colleges

Talk to your child or young person's school, setting or college to find out how they are getting involved in the consultation.

Contacting us about the consultation

If you have any questions, comments, or want to request a paper copy of the questionnaire and consultation document, please use the contact details below.

Email: Education@birmingham.gov.uk

Phone: **0121 303 5154**

Write to: **Birmingham's Strategy for SEND and Inclusion**

PO Box 16465

Birmingham

B2 2DG