

Special Educational Needs & Disability Pathfinder

BROMLEY PATHFINDER CHAMPION STATUS

NEWSLETTER

BROMLEY, with our Bexley partner, is one of 20 National 'Pathfinders' helping the government to develop services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and their families. Pathfinder work is informing the new Children & Families Bill. Key issues related to children and young people with SEN and disability are:

- Replacing SEN statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (for 16 to 25 year olds) with a single, simpler 0 to 25 assessment process and **Education, Health and Care Plan** from 2014. Statutory protections comparable to the Statement extended to 25 (if in further education).
- Revised **Code of Practice**.
- Requiring local authorities to publish a **Local Offer** showing the support available to disabled children and young people and those with SEN, and their families. This must include information on the education, health and care services available locally.
- Giving parents, children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans the right to a **personal budget** for their support.
- Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups and must make arrangements for **joint commissioning**.

Pathfinders are trialling all the above areas.

Bromley and Bexley Pathfinder Phase 3 commenced April 2013 covering the following areas and themes:

- Communication and multi-agency working
- Education, Health & Care Plans
- Bromley Local Offer
- Personal Budgets
- Preparing for Adulthood
- Parents, children and young people and keyworking
- Pathfinder National Champion work with responsibility for the London region

You can find out more information at www.bromley.gov.uk/SendPathfinder

BROMLEY PATHFINDER CHAMPION PROGRESS

Bromley and Bexley Pathfinder achieved **National Pathfinder Champion status** in April 2013 and a full programme of thematic workshops, conferences and 1 to 1 support across all individual non Pathfinder London local authorities is now underway.

PATHFINDER CHAMPION EVENTS

A thematic workshop on **Preparing for Adulthood** was held on **18th June** at Bromley Adult Education College.

An Initial Champion Planning Seminar held on **25th June** at Mott MacDonald (National Pathfinder Consultants) to **plan the Pathfinder Champion Programme** for London 2013/14 and introduce the new Change Guide and Principles of Emerging Practice.

Seminars were held at the London Disabled Children Strategic Manager's Network to discuss the **SEND Reform Programme, Children & Families Bill and Pathfinder thematic areas** including **personal budgets** on **13th June and 17th September** at The Kings Fund.

An **Early Support & Keyworking Conference**: "Changing Lives, Changing Focus" was held at The Warren, Bromley on **17th September**, focussing on engagement with parents, children, young people and carers, Early Support information and key working up through the age range. This conference was attended by over 100 people.

"The Magic of Early Support—Aspirations for the Future of SEND" - **Supporting parents in partnership with the Early Support Consortium** was held at the Royal National Hotel on **19th September** with Bromley presenting. This event was attended by over 100 people.



A thematic workshop on **Developing co-ordinated Assessment and Education, Health & Care Plans co-production with parents** was held on **23rd September** at the National Children's Bureau and was attended by 80 people across most London non-Pathfinder Local Authorities.

Also on 23rd September a presentation was delivered to over 80 SEND Commissioners and procurement leads on the SEND reforms. This event was hosted by the **Pan London Commissioning and Procurement Network** at the CBI Conference Centre.

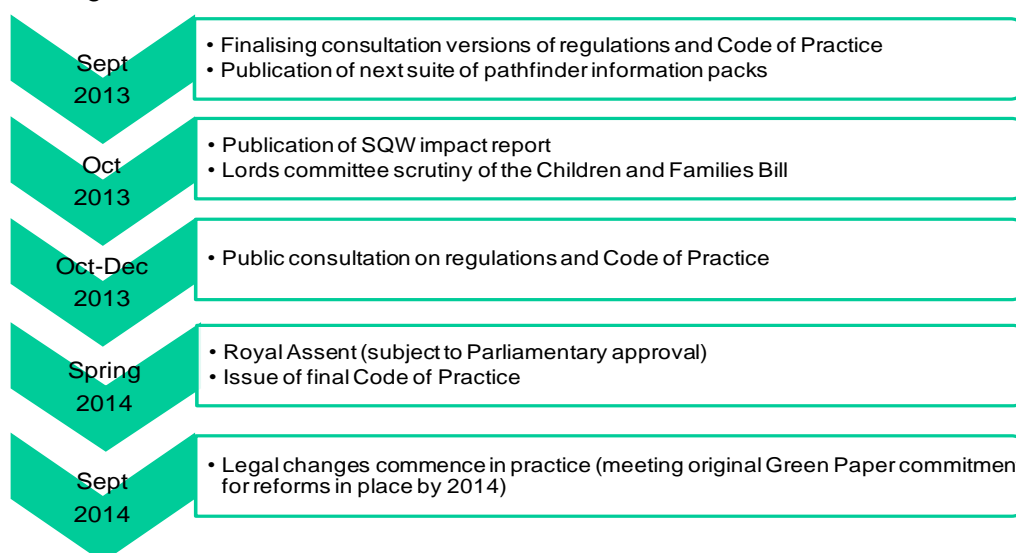
Helen Norris

Head of Specialist Support & Disability Services /
Pathfinder Champion Lead for London (Bromley)

Children & Families Bill Next Steps for SEND Reform

The new reforms are considered the biggest change in SEN & Disability in over 30 years

- **20 Pathfinders** are leading the way, including Bromley and Bexley Pathfinder to develop effective approaches to implementing the reforms.
- **The programme has now been extended until September 2014**, to enable Pathfinders to scale up their test approaches to whole areas, and support non-Pathfinder areas to prepare for implementation of the reforms. Bromley & Bexley have achieved further funding to develop work and disseminate as Champion Lead for London.
- **The Pathfinder programme is central to informing new legislation.** The Children and Families Bill has been revised to reflect Pathfinder learning.
- Pathfinder learning and evaluation is feeding into further development of **regulations and the new SEN Code of Practice** due out October 2013.
- **Bromley & Bexley achieved National Pathfinder Champion Status** from April 2013 with responsibility for the London region.



Draft Legislation—Key Highlights

More streamlined assessment process, co-ordinated across education, health and care, and involves children and young people and their families throughout

New 0-25 Education, Health and Care Plan, replacing the current system of Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments, which reflects the child or young person's aspirations for the future, as well as their current needs

A new **duty on health commissioners** to deliver the health elements of EHC plans

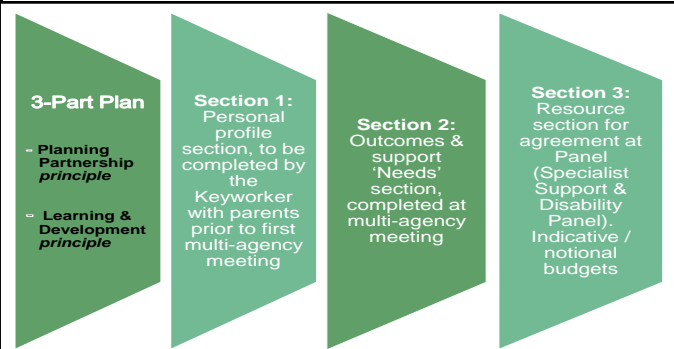
Option of a personal budget for families and young people with a plan, extending choice and control over their support

New **statutory protections for young people aged 16-25** in FE, including right to request particular institution named in their EHC plan and the right to appeal to the First-tier Tribunal

Academies and Free Schools to have the same SEN duties as maintained schools.

PROGRESS ON NEW EDUCATION, HEALTH & CARE (EHC) PLANS for children & young people with more complex needs

Considerable progress has been made on developing the new **Single Education, Health and Care Plan**. From 1st September 2013 we are now offering the **new single EHC plan option for all new plans**. 94 plans have been registered with SQW Pathfinder evaluators and 63 are complete. Plan templates have been agreed in 3 age tranches, birth to 5, 5 to 16 and 16 to 25. Plan templates across the age ranges have also recently been amended in line with the new Education, Health and Care plan checklist (Council for the Disabled Child). It is anticipated that the majority of new plans will be for pre-school age children. It has been agreed for the pilot that, except in exceptional circumstances, and following initial assessments, new plans would not be routinely written for babies and very young children. These would be arranged the year before the child enters school with a robust 'Local Offer' in place prior to this. The agreed plan is in 3 parts based on the Early Support principles.



Helen Norris, Sally Harrison (Early Support Keyworker Co-ordinator, Senior Advisory Teacher, Early Support & Complex Needs Team) and Annabel Dixon (Lead for Pre-School Specialist Support & Disability Service) were invited to a Pathfinder meeting at the DfE to inform on the draft Early Years Code of Practice.

On September 9th a full SEND stakeholder and awareness raising conference was held at the Central Library Bromley to discuss the single assessment process and raise awareness of the new EHC plans and pilot processes. This was attended by over 100 multi agency delegates from the London Borough of Bromley. On 23rd September, the Pathfinder Champion event on Single Plans and assessment at the NCB was attended by over 80 delegates across London. A list of frequently asked EHC Plan questions was compiled at these events.

From 1st September 2013 our 'go-live' arrangements will be across all new cases and these children and young people will be offered the option of an EHC Plan rather than a Statement from this date

OVERVIEW OF BROMLEY EHC PLAN PROCESS

Pathfinder Pilot 0-20 Week Process

Stage 1

- Initial request
- Keyworker allocation
- Personal profile completed (section 1)
- Multi-Agency Meeting (MAM) arranged
- Reports from professionals developed for MAM



Stage 2

- Multi-Agency meeting
- Section 2 drafted
- Following meeting outcomes and support needs (section 3) across Education, Health and Care considered
- Further advice sought if needed

Stage 3

- Draft EHC Plan considered and agreed at Specialist Support & Disability Panel
- Keyworker discusses draft with parents
- Draft Plan revised if necessary and resources agreed across agencies
- Implementation stage

Over the last few months we have been considering answers to critical questions:

- ◆ Thresholds and eligibility criteria; Who should have a new Single Plan & integrated assessment process?
- ◆ Writing and reviewing the EHC Plan; Short and long term outcomes and capacity
- ◆ Support for children below EHC Plan threshold
- ◆ Which specialist services across Education, Health and Care will be accessed and funded through the new integrated Single Plan? (important link to Local Offer) & Joint Commissioning
- ◆ Integrated assessment processes linked to EHC Plan across Education, Health & Care
- ◆ Phasing out SEN Statements and phasing in Single Plans, Mediation and Appeals

Helen Norris
Head of Specialist Support & Disability
Pathfinder Champion Lead for London (Bromley)

PERSONAL BUDGETS

Good progress has been made on Personal Budgets in the Social Care arena. Martin Donkin from 'In Control' facilitated a training day with senior managers and social workers from the Disabled Children's Team to embed a greater understanding about personalising services for children & young people which has begun to be put into practice.

The message about personal budgets has been, and continues to be, well disseminated by Bromley Parent Voice and the summer holiday period saw an increasing demand for Personal Budgets for short breaks. A number of parents and young people wanted to move away from the traditional block commissioned group day provision and systems were trialled to facilitate this.

The major challenges were (i) how to calculate an appropriate level of funding which would enable access to the personalised provision and (ii) parents were not keen to receive the funding through the traditional direct payments methods of opening up a bank account specifically for the purpose of receiving and managing these payments. This is positive learning and provides an on-going indication that whilst parents want choice they do not necessarily want the paperwork and bureaucracy that currently sits alongside this. The project team is working on IT solutions to ensure that systems can meet parental needs in this respect.

We have commissioned a pilot Support Planning programme in order to test what a realistic level of additional support for families and young people might be – initially testing social care personal budgets, with the intention to quickly move on to Education. This includes 4 young people on our Preparing for Adulthood programme.

We have started work with Bromley Parent Voice to develop a robust Resource Allocation System, taking the learning from Bexley who are leading on the Personal Budget workstream. Parents have also welcomed and are working with us on our development of a leaflet which highlights safeguarding issues which they should consider when making decisions about Personal Budgets.

We have long had good joint funding arrangements in place enabling children with health needs but no cognitive disabilities to access school without statements and we are pleased to have moved ahead on agreeing arrangements for the identification of Personal Budgets (notional and joint commissioning) from joining up of funding across Education, Social Care and Health, being close to finalising our protocols and pathways in this respect. In order to do this we selected children with highly complex health needs including requiring full ventilation which, coincidentally, are four very high cost children joint funded in the borough.

Our SEN Transport team have now linked up with local authorities who have established expertise in the area of offering Personal Budgets for transport and the team has begun to explore the appropriate arrangements to stream line this offer.

**Hilary Rogers, Service Manager
(Joint Commissioning)**



PARENTS, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

As part of our Pathfinder work, the London Borough of Bromley were asked to work with the Early Support Consortium to follow a number of parents journeys. This project was delivered by Bromley Parent Voice (BPV) who worked with 16 families to reflect on their journeys thus far; relating their individual experiences to identify what has worked well and what could and should have gone better.

It was important to represent a wide range of experiences which could inform service planning at a local and national level. The following criteria were considered:

1. **Early Support Involvement with families**
2. **Age Range of the children involved (birth to 25 years)
Pan Disability**

We included families where English is not their first language and also a fully Looked After Child to ensure wider representation.

Bromley Parent Voice in partnership with the London Borough of Bromley, have produced a book of the Parent Journeys 'Our Family, Our Lives – Unique Journeys' and a short DVD. We hope that this book and DVD will further help and encourage other families within the borough who are on a similar journey. This project highlighted the importance of working in partnership with parents. This is what the parents told us was important to them:

- 1) Building trust and constructive relationships
- 2) Improvement in processes, documents, information or services which become more family, child and young person focussed
- 3) The importance of having a Keyworker
- 4) Parents have benefitted in a number of ways personally from taking part. Parents have felt empowered, confident and informed. Parents recognise and understand the financial constraints in which the Local Authority operate. Parents expectations are realistic.

During the next year, BPV aim to make a difference to the lives of families of disabled children in the London Borough of Bromley through their involvement in the implementation phase of the Pathfinder project. Across all sectors, BPV seeks to achieve meaningful participation of parent carers in decision-making processes at both a local and at a regional level through the Pathfinder Champion programme.

Our Young Advisers are continuing to work hard. They are continuing to look at the Local Offer and their focus this term is on how they can support other children and young people to be actively involved in developing their Education, Health and Care Plan.

**Kay Moore, Parent Participation Officer,
London Borough of Bromley**

LOCAL OFFER & ACCESS TO LOCAL OFFER SITE

<http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/lbb-local-offer.aspx>

Bromley's Local Offer portal is now live, web link above, and is beginning to be populated with details of the provision available to children and young people with SEN and their families.

An extensive suite of supporting documents, resource guides and information, advice & guidance are already available and more is constantly being added.

Bromley Parent Voice will be supporting the further development of the web site with particular reference to the following activities and outcomes:

1. To arrange and facilitate 12 focus groups in settings across the borough to seek parents feedback on the draft referral pathway to specialist and non specialist support. Groups will be arranged by age and split between EHC eligible families and those families who will access services below the threshold and via the Local Offer. Parents to be asked how the information should be split in terms of age bands.
2. To provide a report analysing parent feedback.
3. Establish a small working group to seek parents views on the Bromley 'My Life' website as the vehicle through which the Bromley Local Offer will be published in line with the Grant agreement.
4. Encourage joint working with partner organisations to maximise the 'reach' of parent carers

The Local Offer web portal is designed to provide information in text and can include:

- links to documents
- embedded videos
- links to services (both individual organisations and predetermined lists)
- links to other pages in the website or to other websites

A provider or service entry will:

- Provide a range of key information for the service
- More 'options' available for information
- Includes a map
- Using a set of predetermined filters will allow for the creation of a list of personalised services.

The Young Advisers are also involved in both the development and future testing of the portal in order to ensure that issues of accessibility and relevance for young people is ensured.

Andrew Royle, Strategic Commissioner - Disabilities



Minister Edward Timpson
meets Young Advisers on a visit to Bromley



New Bromley Resource Guide is available from

<http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/lbb-local-offer.aspx>

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD



Through strong partnership work with young people, families, providers and a range of services, Bromley now have a formal **Statement of Intent to support young people with SEND through Further Education**, which has been endorsed through the borough's democratic process; the Education Policy & Development Scrutiny Committee. The policy is a reflection of the strong partnership and the shared vision in Bromley and provides us with the formal mandate to develop mixed packages of provision and support across mainstream and specialist providers, where appropriate.

The new build at Bromley College has been completed and young people started to attend the new facilities this month. Young people and families are continuing to tour the new facilities at Bromley College and are very positive about the changes, both in terms of the building and also the curriculum developments at the college; moving from 'courses' to 'personalised learning pathways' which align to the 'Getting a Life' programme.

We continue to develop the Education, Health and Care Plan for young people aged 14-25yrs and we recently provided an example to the national working group who scrutinised the plan and provided some really constructive criticism, including:

At what stage does the plan become a young person's plan rather than the families plan – this is not necessarily related to their age?

The plan needs to have something similar to an 'executive summary' to support the reader's understanding of the young person from the outset. It is difficult to understand what a good outcome should look like without having a good understanding of the young person

How do we know that the young person has actually been involved in the plan, to what extent and by which communication method?

The plan needs to be clear about 'costed provision' – there may be a range of interventions and support for a young person, some of which will come from the community and their own circles of support and some of which may be funded by the LA.

We are running a Champion workshop on 30th September for London local authorities, which is focusing on how to implement the changes with an outcome based approach, rather than it being provision/service led. There will be over 60 delegates attending and the session will provide a level of strategic through about how we shift the balance to an outcome based approach, together with some group work that looks at what success might mean for different groups of people. We will also be providing some practical tips on what a meaningful and sustainable pathway might look like, using real examples together with what Bromley have learnt so far. There will be opportunities for us all to learn from each other – we never forget that being a 'formal pathfinder authority' does not mean we have all the answers and there is some excellent work happening around London and the country which we continue to learn from.

Debi Christie, 16-25 Commissioning Manager (Specialist Provision)

Please see the attached full list of all our Pathfinder Champion events.

KEY CONTACT DETAILS:

Bromley & Bexley Pathfinder Champion Enquiries & Bookings	bromley.pathfinderchampion@phoenixsch.org.uk
Mary Çava , Head of SEN & Disability	mary.cava@bromley.gov.uk
Helen Norris , Head of Specialist Support & Disability Services	helen.norris@phoenixsch.org.uk
Andrew Royle , Strategic Commissioner – Disabilities	andrew.royle@bromley.gov.uk
Julia Cavalli , Head of Inclusion Support Services	julia.cavalli@bromley.gov.uk
Paul Cosens , Programme Manager, Clinical Commissioning Group	p.cosens@nhs.net
Tony Harty , Special Educational Needs Operations Manager	tony.harty@bromley.gov.uk
Kay Moore , Parent Participation Officer	kay.moore@phoenixsch.org.uk
Jennifer Stanley , SEN Data & Finance Manager	jennifer.stanley@bromley.gov.uk
Debi Christie , Preparing for Adulthood –16-25 Commissioning Manager	debi.christie@bromley.gov.uk