

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Children, Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b><u>Monday 11th March</u></b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	<u>Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCPs) Overview</u>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Power Point file		

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1** This report provides the Panel with an overview of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in B&NES.
- 1.2** This report's summary of EHCPs is drawn from dashboards managed by the Business Intelligence team and data collected by ISOS partnership as part of the safety valve plan in BANES. Regional and National data has been provided by the DFE through the Southwest RIIA.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

**The Panel / Committee is asked to;**

- 2.1** Note the national, regional and local picture regarding the increase in applications for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCPNA) and the increase in issued plans as detailed in the attached slides.
- 2.2** Be assured that Local Authority Officers continue to work strategically with social care, health, schools and other partners in order to work within statutory guidelines and support schools in delivering the very best outcomes for our children and young people.

### **3 THE REPORT - SUMMARY**

**3.1 Please refer to slides 2, 3, 4, 5.** Locally, regionally, and nationally, the number of applications for EHCPs has increased across all education phases from early years to post 16. As part of our safety valve action plan, our team is developing a new SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Advice service to support our schools and wider professionals in delivering the very best outcomes for our children and young people, increasing expertise within our settings working with schools to meet the needs of our young people within school's resources.

**3.2 Please refer to slide 4.** In BANES, EHCPs in primary schools are higher than the national, south west and statistical neighbour groups, and whilst this is not the case in secondary schools as the pupils transition over time we would expect this trend to continue. To support this the service is developing an increased program of professional development for our SENCOs and are working hard to support our primary schools in supporting children through ordinarily available provision within their settings.

**3.3 Please refer to slide 6.** The most common primary need for young people with an EHCP in BANES is autism, which is in line with the Southwest and National trends. Social, Emotional and Mental Health is increasing as a primary need and is likely to become our biggest area of need in coming years. To better support our settings with this growing need we are increasing the capacity of our behaviour support team who visit schools and provide timely and appropriate advice. This has proven effective in supporting our children and young people who are at risk of placement breakdown.

**3.4 Please refer to slides 7 and 8.** In 2022, 24% of requests for needs assessments were declined in BANES compared to 22% nationally and 19% in the Southwest. In 2023, 33% were declined in BANES. 2023 National and regional data is not yet available for comparison. The service is currently reviewing the scheme of delegation and terms of reference for its EHCP panels with the view to continue to foster a collaborative approach to decision making between Education, Health, Social Care, Schools and other parties. This will continue to ensure a robust, fair decision-making process.

**3.5 Please refer to slides 9 and 10.** Completion of EHCP assessment within the statutory timeframes continues to be challenging in the Southwest, with 35% of plans being delivered on time vs 49% nationally in 2022. In BANES, 24% of plans were delivered on time in 2022. In 2023, 36% of plans were delivered on time. The service has a robust improvement plan in place to improve the timeliness of its delivery and expects to continue its upward trend in delivering on time assessments this year. As demand has increased, investment has been made in increasing the statutory team, with an increase within the leadership to support in the delivery of our statutory obligations.

**3.6 Please refer to slides 11 and 12.** Nationally there has been an increase in demand for specialist provision, with a 22% increase evident in the South West between 2019 and 2023. In BANES 34.1% of our children with EHCPs attended special schools vs a national figure of 33.1%. As demand increases, we are increasingly unable to provide timely placement of children in a local school, resulting in an increase in children travelling longer distances to attend school and/or waiting for too long to gain a school place. We are working hard to increase our special school places and are also increasing the number of

resource base places available so that more of our children and young people can attend a local mainstream school whilst accessing specialist levels of support.

#### **4 CLIMATE CHANGE**

**4.1** This report contains information on the assessment and issue of EHCPs. As we increase our local offer of specialist and resource base places, we expect the average commute to school for this group to decrease.

#### **5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**5.1** No other options have been considered for writing this report.

#### **6 CONSULTATION**

**6.1** This report has been developed with the input and consultation of the Council's Business Intelligence team, ISOS partnership and SWRIIS.

#### **7 EQUALITIES**

**7.1** The evidence in this report will be used to strategically inform several work streams to improve inequalities in outcomes and disproportionality.

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<b>Background papers</b>	N/A
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	