

<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX47/2022
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Vicky Gent, Director of Children’s Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth, Schools and Transience
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 December 2022

## SEND STRATEGY 2022 – 25

**1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To consider and approve the SEND Partnership’s new SEND Strategy 2022-25 prior to its launch at the SEND Conference.

**2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To approve the Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-25 attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report, with effect until 31 December 2025.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 Considerable work has been ongoing at a strategic level during the last 12 months which has enabled leaders in the SEND system to gain an in depth understanding of the issues facing the system; the renewed SEND Strategy is the outcome of this work, which has been informed by a new SEND Needs Assessment and a detailed self-evaluation.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

**4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:**

4.1 Not producing a strategy would result in the partnership not setting strategic direction or meeting the requirements of Ofsted, Department for Education and NHS England.

**5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

**6.0 Background information**

6.1 In February 2022 the joint Ofsted and CQC inspection of the local area’s SEND provision highlighted four areas of significant concern and a Written Statement of Action was required to set out how the partnership would address the four areas. This was approved by the Executive on the 5 September 2022 (decision EX29/2022 refers).

6.2 The first of the four areas is the ‘lack of specificity, ownership and accountability in the area’s improvement strategy for SEND’. The strategy partially addresses this by setting out the local area’s vision and priorities, with additional activity planned in December and the new year to formally launch, publicise and embed the strategy.

6.3 The SEND Strategy describes the partnership’s commitment to working together with families through a model of co-production, which involves them in the design and shaping of services alongside those responsible for funding and delivery.

6.4 It identifies four key priorities that the partnership will focus on over the next 2-3 years; this also includes the areas highlighted as areas of weakness by Ofsted and CQC. An improvement plan is in development that will track progress in delivering of the activity set out in the strategy.

6.5 The Strategy, Written Statement of Action, and Improvement Plan will be monitored by the SEND Partnership through monthly highlight reports, evidence log and risk register which will be produced by the SEND Improvement Group. Progress reports will also be shared with the Children and Families Partnership and Blackpool Education Improvement Board on a quarterly basis.

6.6 The SEND Strategy has been developed with input from the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee which has received reports on the SEN Strategy at a number of occasions including a full draft version at its meeting on 30 June 2022. Comments and issues raised by that Committee have been addressed in the version now attached for approval.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 2a – SEND Strategy

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 Some additional resource to support the improvement program has been provided by the Integrated Care Board, and additional capacity will be created within existing budgets and funding streams. £70,000 has been provided by the Integrated Care Board to support the improvement program, this will contribute to funding activity such as co-production work for 2023.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 The Council has a legal obligation to meet the legislative requirements set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, s20 of the Children's Act 2004, and Equalities Act 2010.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 These are published documents so there is risk to the Council's reputation if it does not fulfil its statutory duties.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 The purpose of the SEND strategy and improvement plans is to ensure that Blackpool has fully inclusive services for all children and young people 0-25.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Public consultation has been undertaken on the strategy in May 2022 and amendments made as a result of feedback from parents, carers, young people and professionals.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 14/2021

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: 25 November 2022 Date approved:

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1 None.

**19.0 Summary of Discussion:**

19.1 Ms Charlotte Baron, Head of SEN, presented the report to the Executive. Ms Baron highlighted the linkages between this strategy and the SEND Written Statement of Action approved by Executive on 5 September 2022. Ms Baron also emphasised the extensive consultation that had informed the development of the strategy including extensive input from the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee.

**20.0 Executive decision:**

20.1 The Executive agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To approve the Blackpool SEND Strategy 2022-25 attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report, with effect until 31 December 2025.

**21.0 Date of Decision:**

21.1 5 December 2022

**22.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

22.1 Considerable work has been ongoing at a strategic level during the last 12 months which has enabled leaders in the SEND system to gain an in depth understanding of the issues facing the system; the renewed SEND Strategy is the outcome of this work, which has been informed by a new SEND Needs Assessment and a detailed self-evaluation.

**23.0 Date Decision published:**

23.1 6 December 2022

**24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

24.1 The Executive noted that there were no realistic alternatives as to not produce a strategy would result in the Council and the SEN partnership not setting strategic direction or meeting the requirements of Ofsted, Department for Education and NHS England.

**25.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

25.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair  
Councillors Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Smith and Taylor

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1