



SEND and Inclusion Strategy consultation

Open date: 21 October 2024

Close date: 1 December 2024

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Overview

We want to hear your views about our draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy for 2025 through to 2030.

The SEND partnership across Buckinghamshire has drafted a revised SEND and Inclusion Strategy for 2025 to 2030.

‘Local area or SEND partnership’ is a term used throughout this strategy. This partnership includes children and young people with SEND, their families/carers, and those in education, health and care (including the voluntary and community sector). The partnership is responsible for the strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements for children and young people with SEND who live in Buckinghamshire.

The new draft strategy has been developed with key partners including representatives of parents/carers and young people. It seeks to raise aspirations and close the achievement gap for children and young people with SEND. The new strategy will set out the SEND partnership’s aims and objectives. It shifts our focus in delivering our offer, without reducing the service.

As a SEND partnership, we are committed to continually improving the support provided for children with SEND and the outcomes they achieve. This new strategy supports this ambition.

Once finalised, the new strategy will replace the [existing SEND and Inclusion Strategy](#) that expired at the end of 2023.

We are keen to hear views from as many families and young people as possible on the content of the new strategy, as well as from professionals and organisations who support children and young people with SEND.

How we developed the draft strategy

In the summer of 2023, we applied to receive additional funding from the Department for Education (DfE) through their delivering better value in SEND programme.

To support our application, we gathered information in the following ways:

- case reviews
- deep dives
- surveys
- listening forums

On being awarded the additional funding, we have developed four key priorities which are detailed in the strategy, and which will inform the strategic delivery plan that guides SEND transformation work across the local area.

It is this key change that instigated the need for a revised SEND and Inclusion Strategy in Buckinghamshire.

The draft strategy pulls together findings from information gathering activities, identifying four key priority areas that have been approved by the SEND Partnership Board:

- early support
- education provision
- high support needs
- preparation for adulthood

Each of these four priorities is the focus of a separate area of work activity. These areas of work are detailed in the SEND strategic delivery plan that underpins the strategy. While the priorities are now set, we are keen to hear

through this consultation the views of families and our partners in Buckinghamshire about how we plan to deliver against them.

Related documents and links

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the following documents and links:

- [Draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy \(PDF 0.5MB\)](#)
- [SEND and Inclusion Strategy summary document \(PDF 0.6MB\)](#)
- [Easy Read version of the draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy survey \(PDF 3.3MB\)](#)

Events / online events

We are holding a number of events during the consultation period, including:

- one in-person parent/carer engagement session taking place on the 14 November at 6pm within a specialist education setting.
- one in-person parent/carer engagement session taking place open to all parent/carers of children and young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire on (date to be confirmed)
- four in-person children and young people's workshops taking place across Buckinghamshire within both mainstream and specialist education settings (dates to be confirmed).
- three online parent/carer engagement sessions available during both daytime and evening hours:
 - Wednesday 6 November 2-3pm
 - Wednesday 13th November 6.30-7.30pm
 - Thursday 21 November 10-11am
- three online professional engagement sessions:
 - Thursday 24 October 12-1pm
 - Wednesday 6 November 3.30-4.30pm
 - Thursday 14 November 3.30-4.30pm

If you would like to attend any of our events, please email us at engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey on [Your Voice Bucks](#)
- print, complete, and return this print version of the survey to us

- complete and email to us the [easy read version of the survey \(PDF 3.3MB\)](#)
- email us at engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- write to us at Engage Education, Children’s Services, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UA

If you have any questions about this activity, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or phone us on 07812 788391.

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on 1 December 2024.

What happens next

Your views will help us to make sure that our aspirations for SEND and inclusion in the strategy reflect the needs of the children and young people in Buckinghamshire with SEND. We will also use your views to review and, if necessary, modify the way we plan to deliver against our four priorities.

We will then draft a final version of the strategy which will go forward for formal approval by the Council.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [privacy policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

SEND and Inclusion Strategy consultation – printed survey

Our aspirations for SEND and inclusion in Buckinghamshire

- Embed an early intervention and needs-led approach. We want children, young people and their families to be supported at the earliest possible stage, and for this support not to be dependent on a clinical diagnosis.

- Integrate and strengthen service delivery so that the whole system works in a coherent way.
- Strengthen communication, providing clear advice and guidance so that families access the right support at the right time.
- Develop a consistent approach to decision-making about the support provided for children and young people with high support needs. We will use a multi-disciplinary team approach, to make sure the right expertise informs the decisions.
- Develop our [SEND Sufficiency Plan](#) to shape local provision. We want to ensure the plan delivers sufficient places for children and young people so that their needs can be met locally.
- Strengthen our approach to preparation for adulthood, ensuring there are clear pathways for children and young people to access meaningful opportunities at post-16 and post-19.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that our aspirations for SEND and inclusion in Buckinghamshire will enable us to better support our children and young people with SEND to meet the challenges they face?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

Priority 1: Early support

What will the local area do?

- Work across the whole system to make sure children and young people's needs are understood as early as possible so that all partners can provide the right support at the right time.
- Deliver the graduated approach. Early years settings and mainstream settings will be able to clearly demonstrate how [Ordinarily Available Provision \(OAP\)](#) is implemented and monitored.
- Communicate with professionals and families more effectively by developing a consistent approach. This will mean that parents, carers and professionals will know about the support and training available and be able to signpost appropriately.

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our approach to achieving our priority of providing early support for children and young people with SEND where needed?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

3. If you have any comments on our priority to provide early support for children and young people with SEND, please tell us here:

Priority 2: Education provision

What will the local area do?

- Ensure that all children and young people with SEND can access high quality education provision as close to home as possible that meets their needs and helps them achieve positive outcomes.
- Support settings and partners to have confidence in the [graduated approach](#).
- Develop strategic plans for alternative provision to ensure partners have the right type, quantity and range of alternative provision to meet children and young people's needs.
- Develop a culture of inclusivity across educational settings and wider community providers in Buckinghamshire.

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our approach to achieving our priority of providing suitable education provision for children and young people with SEND?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

5. If you have any comments on our priority to provide suitable education provision for children and young people with SEND, please tell us here:

Priority 3: High support needs

What will the local area do?

- Help services to work together to ensure we are effectively supporting children and young people with high support needs.
- Improve access to short breaks, respite and wider care provision.
- Review and simplify the way we work so it is easier to access the right support at the right time.
- Contribute to education sufficiency planning for those with high levels of need.
- Contribute to key strategic priorities linked to Preparing for Adulthood for those with high levels of need.

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our approach to achieving our priority of providing effective support for children and young people with high SEND support needs?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

7. If you have any comments on our priority to provide effective support for children and young people with high SEND support needs, please tell us here:

Priority 4: Preparation for adulthood

What will the local area do?

- Support settings in Buckinghamshire to use the [Preparing for Adulthood framework](#) to develop the knowledge, skills and independence of children and young people with SEND.
- Develop ways for children’s services and adult services to work together to promote positive transitions for young people.
- Ensure children and young people are supported to advocate for themselves, make their own choices and benefit from being part of inclusive communities.
- Develop the post 16 offer, including further education, work with training, volunteering and/or meaningful opportunities and improve the support provided for transitions.
- Develop the work with post-16 providers so they can prepare young people for post-19 transitions.

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our approach to achieving our priority of providing preparation for adulthood for children and young people with SEND?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don’t know

9. If you have any comments on our priority to provide preparation for adulthood for children and young people with SEND, please tell us here:

Understanding our strategy and survey

10. So that we can keep improving how we get feedback from you, please tell us how easy you found it to understand the strategy and survey documents you have looked at while completing this survey:

Please tick (✓) one for each document

	Very easy	Some- what easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Some- what difficult	Very difficult	I didn't look at this
The draft strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy summary document	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy read survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Printed version of survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. If you answered in the top row of the question above that you found the draft strategy document either 'Very difficult' or 'Somewhat difficult' to understand, please tell us the reasons why you found it difficult.

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

1. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I am a person with SEND
- I am the parent or carer of a child or young person with SEND who is under 16
- I am the parent or carer of a child or young person with SEND who is 16 or over
- I am an education professional
- I am a healthcare professional
- I am a social care professional
- I live in Buckinghamshire
- I work in Buckinghamshire
- I study in Buckinghamshire
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

2. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio, TV or news website)
- Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter/X)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Email or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council
- Buckinghamshire Council staff member
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Friend or family member
- Local community or special interest group
- Councillor, town/parish council or community board
- School or other education provider
- Healthcare professional
- Social care professional
- Other (please give details below):

3. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to question X)
- On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

4. Please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation

More about you if you are responding as an individual

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

5. What is your postcode?

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

6. What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

7. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

8. Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

9. How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean

- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on 1 December 2024. You can:

- email it to engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- post it to Engage Education, Children's Services, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UA