



## **Buckinghamshire Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026 consultation**

**Open date:** 21 November 2022

**Close date:** 9 January 2023

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### **Overview**

**We want to hear your views on a draft strategy to support children and young people's therapy needs in Buckinghamshire.**

We have also developed a survey to ask young people about their views on the proposed changes at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/speak-and-move](https://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/speak-and-move).

Young people can complete this on their own or with support from a parent, carer, or professional.

Some older young people may feel more comfortable completing the survey below for parents, professionals and other adults, including adults with experience of receiving support.

Please choose which survey you feel most comfortable with. The responses for both surveys are equally valued and important.

### **Introduction**

Our Therapies Strategy proposes a shared approach to therapy provision and support across Buckinghamshire. We want to ensure that:

- children and young people's needs are identified as soon as possible
- children and young people can access therapy support at the earliest stage

This will reduce demand for, and dependence on, the limited specialist provision available. It will also improve access to specialist provision for children and young people with more complex needs.

Guidance and best practice describe a move away from referring all children and young people to an expert therapist for support. For Buckinghamshire, we are proposing to:

- move towards a better balance of support across universal, targeted and specialist levels of support
- install a whole school approach to the delivery of therapy support
- support the role of community delivery in supporting children and young people's development

This approach would develop expertise within a child or young person's everyday environment. The benefits of this are:

- Children and young people would receive support with their development at the earliest point of intervention
- Reducing the level of escalating need being seen in Buckinghamshire
- Improving outcomes for children and young people

The strategy will guide continuous improvement in therapy provision and support up to 2026.

**We want to hear your views and suggestions about the draft strategy to help ensure it meets the therapy needs of children and young people.**

**What do we mean by 'therapy needs'?**

- **Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT)** supports children and young people to develop effective speech, language, and social communication skills. It also works with children and young people who have problems eating or drinking.
- **Occupational Therapy (OT)** works with children and young people who have 'functional difficulties' or a physical and / or learning disability which impacts upon their daily participation in activities. This means their ability to learn and develop, socialise and play may be compromised.
- **Physiotherapy (PT)** supports children and young people who have difficulty with movement and treat short and long-term conditions that

impact on physical development, activity, and their ability to participate in play, learning and socialising.

For more information, please see the draft Buckinghamshire Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026.

### **Draft vision and priorities**

Our draft vision for children and young people's therapy needs is:

- To enable Buckinghamshire children and young people with therapy needs to live full, happy and healthy lives
- To support children to develop the skills they need to access education and to take part in daily living activities. This will enable children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to realise their full potential

We will achieve this vision through the following draft priorities:

- Boosting support available within community and universal settings
- Ensuring early identification of therapy support or provision needs
- Ensuring that the right support is in place at the right time and in an accessible location

These priorities have been developed using best practice guidance and co-production with key stakeholders. The 3 priorities are equally important.

### **Why a therapies strategy is needed**

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a Local Area Inspection in March 2022. The outcome of the inspection emphasised the need for a single Therapies Strategy for Buckinghamshire.

Timely therapy support enables children and young people with SEND to take as full and active part in their daily routines as they are able. This means that wherever possible children and young people can develop, thrive and reach their full potential.

Lack of effective therapy support at the right time and in the right place, can lead to a negative impact on:

- educational attainment
- employment

- social mobility
- mental health
- involvement with the justice system

These then can have negative effects on longer-term health and wellbeing.

We are facing national and local challenges to therapy provision, such as a national shortage of therapists and increasing demand in Buckinghamshire.

The strategy aims to mitigate the impact of the national shortage of therapists on children and young people living in Buckinghamshire.

### **How the strategy has been developed**

We have worked with key partners to shape the priority actions and outcomes set out in the draft Therapies Strategy.

A workshop was held on 25 May 2022 with key stakeholders to collectively shape the vision for therapy support and provision in Buckinghamshire.

In June 2022, key stakeholders were invited to provide initial feedback on the draft strategy. This included feedback from:

- Schools
- Children's Education Service
- Children's Social Care
- Specialist Teachers
- FACT Bucks
- Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust
- Oxford Health Foundation Trust
- Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health
- Integrated Commissioning

Young people, parents and carers provided feedback at the Shout Out for SEND conference in October 2021. This was fed into the development of the draft strategy.

### **Who we need to hear from**

To help ensure this strategy meets the therapy needs of children and young people, we need to hear from a range of people, including:

- Parent / carers of children or young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Children and young people with SEND
- Education setting employees (e.g. early years, schools, colleges etc.)
- Professionals working with children and young people with SEND
- Professionals working in an Early Help role (e.g. family support worker, within health visiting or school nursing etc.)
- Speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists
- Groups and organisations working with children and young people with SEND

### **Related documents**

Before you respond to this consultation, please have a look at the following document. This is available at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/therapies-strategy](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/therapies-strategy).

- Draft Buckinghamshire Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026

### **Online events**

#### **Events for parents / carers**

We are running two online events with FACT Bucks for parents or carers to hear about the strategy and share their views.

These will be held on Microsoft Teams and you will need to book to attend at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/therapies-strategy](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/therapies-strategy).

- Wednesday 7 December, from 7pm to 8pm
- Friday 9 December, from 10am to 11am

#### **Feedback group for children and young people**

We are running a feedback group for children and young people to share their thoughts and suggestions between November 2022 and January 2023.

We want to hear children and young people's experiences and views on the therapy services they access. This will help us understand what we need to improve and how we can offer better support.

If you, your child, or a child / young person you work with would like to join our feedback group or feedback individually, please contact us at [preventioncommissioning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:preventioncommissioning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

We will then contact you with further details of the feedback group or 1:1 sessions.

### **Queries and further information**

We understand that as part of this consultation, you may wish to share personal experiences about your or your child's journey.

Whilst we welcome this, we can only use the information you provide to inform the development of the final strategy.

The responses to this survey are anonymous. We cannot identify you or contact you about anything you say in this survey.

If you wish to raise a query or want more information, please contact:

- For queries about therapy referrals or provision:
  - email [buc-tr.cytherapies@nhs.net](mailto:buc-tr.cytherapies@nhs.net), or
  - call 01296 838000 (choosing Option 4 for Therapies)
- For queries relating to the education, health and care needs assessment (EHCNA) process, please contact your EHC coordinator. You can find your coordinator at <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>
- For queries in relation to your education setting, please contact your school or other setting

### **How to have your say**

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

- Complete the online survey at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/therapies-strategy](https://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/therapies-strategy)
- Complete, and return, the printed version of the survey below
- Email us at [preventioncommissioning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:preventioncommissioning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- Write to us at Therapies Strategy Consultation, Integrated Commissioning, Buckinghamshire Council, 5th Floor, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

If you have any questions about this consultation, please email us at [preventioncommissioning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:preventioncommissioning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or phone us on 0300 131 6000.

**Please tell us your views by midnight on Monday 9 January 2023.**

### **What happens next**

All feedback will be collated and analysed. We will use your responses to inform the final draft of the Therapies Strategy. We aim to publish the final strategy by Easter 2023.

Responses will also be used to inform the recommissioning of the Children's Integrated Therapies Service.

We will update this page with the outcomes of the consultation.

### **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](mailto:dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

## **Printed consultation survey**

### **Draft vision**

Our vision for children and young people's therapy needs is:

- To enable Buckinghamshire children and young people with therapy needs to live full, happy and healthy lives
- To support children to develop the skills they need to access education and to take part in daily living activities. This will enable children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to realise their full potential

**1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the vision for the Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026?**

Please tick (✓) one option

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

**2. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:**

If you think we need to consider anything else in the vision, please include this in your answer.

**Boosting support available within community and universal settings**

This priority will support children and young people's development within their local environment. This will increase understanding of strategies to support children and young people's development and therapy needs.

We have identified a number of actions that we need to take to meet this priority:

- Implementing a whole setting approach to developing children and young people's speech, language, communication, operational performance and sensory skills within education settings
- Training of universal staff groups in strategies to support development of skills. These groups to include childminders, early years settings, schools, Health Visitors and School Nurses etc.
- Training of universal staff groups to support inclusion of children and young people with additional needs. A particular area of focus would be children and young people with sensory needs.
- Mapping of current provision in line with levels of support offered
- Developing the ordinarily available provision available to better support therapy needs



- Better communicating the range of support available to stakeholders, including parents
- Making pathways for therapy support and provision clear for parents and schools
- Ensuring special educational needs (SEN) support is available in schools for children and young people with therapy needs is consistent across the County
- Supporting staff training within settings by utilising specialist capacity

**3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that ‘Boosting support available within community and universal settings’ should be a priority for the Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026?**

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 previous answer:**

**4. If you have any other comments about this priority and its actions, please tell us them here:**

If you think we need to consider any additional action(s) to address this priority, please include them in your answer.

## Ensuring early identification of therapy support or provision needs

We have identified a number of actions that we need to take to meet this priority:

- Delivery of the five mandated checks within the Healthy Child Programme
- Improved integration of 2-year early years checks and 2-year health visitor checks
- Promotion of the school readiness self-assessments within Health Visiting
- Delivery of packages to support schools to screen / identify children and support provision of targeted support
- Provision of training to help universal staff to increase awareness of where and when to seek support for children and young people

### 5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that 'Ensuring early identification of therapy support or provision needs' should be a priority for the Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026?

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 previous answer:**

**6. If you have any other comments about this priority and its actions, please tell us them here:**

If you think we need to consider any additional action(s) to address this priority, please include them in your answer.

**Ensuring that the right support is in place at the right time and in an accessible location**

We have identified a number of actions that we need to take to meet this priority:

- Recommissioning of therapies contract to support ongoing delivery of therapy provision. This will also provide support to universal settings with therapy queries
- Recommissioning of universal screening and intervention package for primary schools. This will support targeted intervention within schools
- Implementation of Early Language Implementation Measure within 2-year mandated check
- Development of a broader targeted support offer in Buckinghamshire

**7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that 'Ensuring that the right support is in place at the right time and in an accessible location' should be a priority for the Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026?**

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 previous answer:**

**8. If you have any other comments about this priority and its actions, please tell us them here:**

If you think we need to consider any additional action(s) to address this priority, please include them in your answer.

## **Delivering the priorities and actions**

When developing this strategy, we have considered the barriers we might face in delivering the priorities and actions we are proposing.

We want to make sure we have heard your thoughts on this too.

**9. What do you think could make it harder to deliver the priorities and actions in this strategy?**

Please include how you think these challenges could be overcome.

## **Outcomes**

We have identified a number of outcomes. These are the changes we expect to see as a result of implementing our draft strategy.

These outcomes have been developed using best practice guidance and co-production with key stakeholders.

- **Children and young people are appropriately supported with their therapy needs at the earliest opportunity**
  - Proportionately fewer children and young people progress to statutory level need in Buckinghamshire
  - Proportionately fewer children and young people have speech, language and communication as their primary need on Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
  
- **Universal settings are empowered to provide universal and targeted support to children and young people with therapy needs**
  - 100% of settings are offered training on implementing a whole setting approach over the life of this strategy
  - 85% of settings implement a whole setting approach to supporting therapy needs over the life of this strategy
  - 85% of primary schools complete universal language screening in reception and years 1 and 2
  - 100% of Early Years Settings, Family Support Centres, Health Visiting Teams and School Nurse Teams are offered training on supporting therapy needs over the life of this strategy.
  
- **More efficient use of limited qualified therapist resource locally**
  - Proportionately fewer referrals to specialist provision for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) are “not known” to specialist provision
  
- **Improved timeliness of Appendix F to support EHCNA**
  - Appendix F is a section in a child or young person's EHCP. It sets out the special educational provision required by the child or young person.
  - 100% of Appendix F requests are returned within the statutory timeline
  
- **Reduce the number of parents that feel they must resort to formal dispute processes to have their child’s therapy needs met**
  - Proportionately fewer mediation panels and tribunals to dispute children and young people’s therapy need provision

## **Measuring outcomes**

The SEND Local Area Inspection highlighted progress in how therapy outcomes are measured across the local area. However, there is still more work to do to ensure a shared and consistent narrative to describe how therapy needs are met locally.



**11. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:**

If you think we need to consider any additional outcome(s), please include them in your answer.

**Buckinghamshire Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026**

**12. How easy do you find the Therapies Strategy to understand?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Very easy
- Somewhat easy
- Not very easy
- Not at all easy
- I don't know

**If you think we could make the Therapies Strategy easier to understand, please tell us how:**

**13. If you have any other comments about the draft Buckinghamshire Therapies Strategy 2023 to 2026, please tell us them here:**

## 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.

### 14. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I am a child or young person with SEND
- I am a parent / carer of a child or young person with SEND
- I work for an education setting (e.g. early years, schools, colleges etc.)
- I am a professional working with children and young people with SEND
- I am a professional working in an Early Help role (e.g. family support worker, within health visiting or school nursing etc.)
- I am speech and language therapist, occupational therapist or physiotherapist
- I live in Buckinghamshire
- I work 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 work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

### 15. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Buckinghamshire Family Information Service
- Social media (Facebook, Instagram Twitter)
- Nextdoor
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- From Buckinghamshire Council staff
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council

**More answer options on the next page**



- Poster
- Word of mouth
- Local Community Board
- Local Councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council
- Other (please give details below):

**16. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. an education setting, healthcare provider or a group)?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (Go to question 18)
- On behalf of an organisation (Go to question 17)

**On behalf of an organisation**

**17. Please provide the following details:**

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

**End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation**

**About you**

**18. 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.

## 19. 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

## 20. 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

## 21. 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

## 22. 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 midnight on Monday 9 January 2023.

You can:

- Email it to [preventioncommissioning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:preventioncommissioning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- Post it to Therapies Strategy consultation, Integrated Commissioning, Buckinghamshire Council, 5th Floor, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA