



Specialist Teaching Consultation 2021

Opens: 8 November 2021

Closes: 19 December 2021

Contact: Education Transformation and Improvement Team

engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

0300 131 6000

Overview

What is the purpose of this consultation?

We are consulting on our proposal to modernise the way we provide specialist teaching across Buckinghamshire. Our proposal is designed to ensure we apply the skills and knowledge of our specialist teachers in the most effective way. We want all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to receive high-quality education and ensure they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

What is specialist teaching?

The specialist teachers within Buckinghamshire Council are part of our Integrated SEND Service. They offer support and specialist knowledge so that children and young people with SEND are able to learn and achieve their personal best in education. Specialist teachers work with schools, parents, and other agencies to support children with a range of needs.

Which forms of specialist teaching does the proposal cover?

The proposal covers specialist teaching for children and young people with:

- Autism and language needs
- Difficulties with understanding, including Down Syndrome and specific learning difficulties
- Physical difficulties

The proposal does not cover specialist teaching for children and young people with:

- Sensory impairments – hearing, visual or multi-sensory

Reasons for proposing change

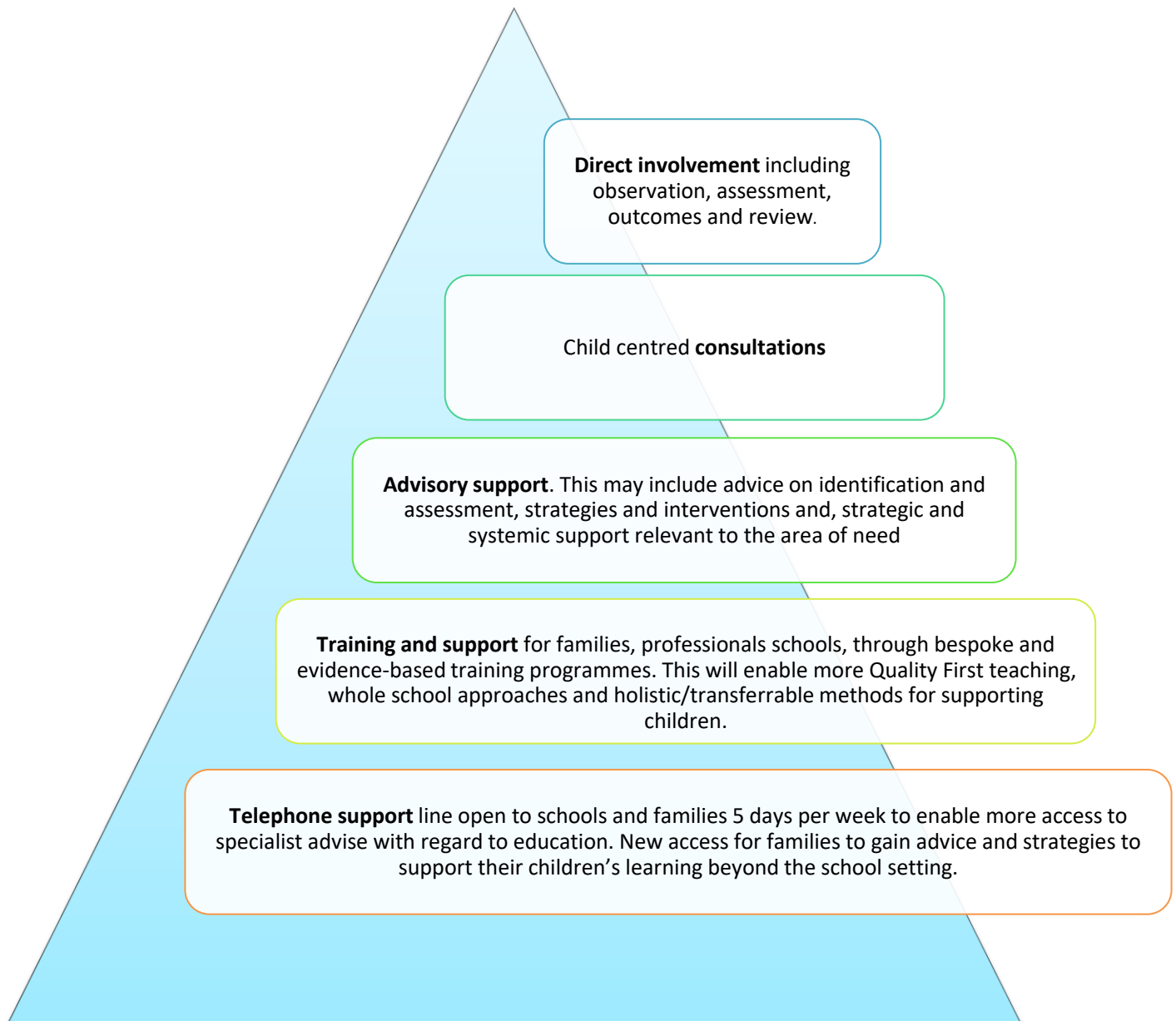
- **To reach more children and young people with SEND.** Currently, only those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receive specialist teaching support. This means that many children and young people are not able to access the Council's specialist teaching resource, and opportunities for early intervention are lost.

- **To introduce a new and improved approach based on research and best practice.** Modelling our specialist teaching service on what works elsewhere, research findings and best practice from other Council services such as [Early Years support](#).
- **To make best use of our specialist teaching resource.** Our proposal is not about cutting the service and there are no plans to reduce the overall level of resource. It is about a different way of providing specialist teaching to more pupils using the resources we have.

The proposal

To understand the full detail of our proposal, you will need to read the *Specialist Teaching Proposal* document that accompanies this document.

The following diagram outlines the main features of the proposed approach:



How to provide feedback

You can get involved in the consultation by:

- Complete the survey below or online at [Your Voice Bucks](#)
- Register to attend one of our online consultation events by emailing us on engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or phoning us on 0300 131 6000. We are holding these on the following dates:
 - Tuesday 16 November, 7-8pm
 - Tuesday 23 November, 11.30am–12.30pm
 - Friday 26 November, 11am–12pm

What happens next

We will review all the feedback we receive to guide us in making any relevant changes to the draft proposal. The final proposal will then go to senior leadership within the Council for approval before we publish it on our [Specialist teachers webpage](#) website and start to promote it. We will update this page with the outcome of the consultation process.

Dependent on feedback and approval, a new specialist teaching approach would be implemented step-by-step over a period of time, starting from September 2022.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this consultation. We will keep the information confidential and store it 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, 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.

Consultation survey

The current approach

Currently, only those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) receive specialist teaching support. This means that many children and young people are not able to access the Council's specialist teaching resource, and opportunities for early intervention are lost.

1. Do you think there is a need to change the way we provide specialist teaching?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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

The proposal

Please read the full *Specialist Teaching Proposal* document before giving your answers.

Our proposal aims to create a new specialist teaching approach for schools and other places of education. It would provide a more flexible service to enable support for all pupils with SEND to achieve the best possible outcomes. The proposed changes would include:

- **A telephone support line open to schools and families 5 days per week.** This is to enable more access to specialist advice about education for children and young people with SEND. It would include access for families to gain advice and strategies to support their children's learning beyond their place of education.
- **Training and support for families, professionals, and places of education.** This would be through tailored and evidence-based training programmes. It would enable more *Quality First* teaching and the use of whole-school approaches.
- **Advisory support.** This may include advice on ways of identifying and assessing different areas of need.
- **Child-centred consultations.**
- **Direct support.** Including observation, assessment, outcomes, and review.

3. To what extent do you agree with our proposal?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer.

5. Do you think the proposal would help schools and other places of education better support all pupils with SEND?

- Yes
- No
- Partly
- Unsure

6. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer.

7. Would you make use of a telephone support line?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer.

9. If you think we should consider anything else in the proposal, please give details here.

Additional comments

10. If you have any other feedback about the Specialist Teaching Proposal, please provide details here.

About you

11. Which of the following statements best describes you?

- Young person aged up to 25 **Go to question 12**
- Parent or carer of a children or young people aged under 25 **Go to question 16**
- Professional who works with children and young people **Go to question 20**
- Official representative of a Buckinghamshire school or other place of education **Go to question 20**
- A councillor or MP in Buckinghamshire **Survey complete**
- Other (please give details below) **Survey complete**

Young people

12. Which age group are you in?

- 0 - 11 years old
- 11 - 16 years old (in school year 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11)
- 16 – 18 years old (in school year 12 or 13)
- 19 years old
- 20 – 25 years old

13. Do you have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

14. If you do have SEND, which of the things listed below do you have?

- Education, Health and Care Plan
- SEN support
- Neither of the 2 choices above
- Unsure
- I do not have SEND

15. Where do you receive your education?

- Mainstream school
- Mainstream school with an Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)
- Special school
- Pupil referral unit
- College
- At home
- I am not in education
- Unsure
- Other (please give details below)

End of survey for young people

Parents and carers

16. How old are your children? Please choose all that apply.

- 0 - 4 years old (Early Years education)
- 4 - 11 years old (Reception/primary school)
- 11 - 16 years old (School year 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11)
- 16 – 18 years old (School year 12 or 13)
- 19 years old
- 20 – 25 years old

17. Do any of the children have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

18. If you have a child/children with SEND, which of these statements apply to them?

- They have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- They receive SEN support
- They do not have an EHCP or receive SEN support
- Unsure
- I do not have any children with SEND

19. Where are the children educated? Please choose all that apply.

- Mainstream school
- Mainstream school with an Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)
- Special school
- Pupil referral unit
- College
- At home
- Not in education
- I'm not sure
- Other (please give details below)

End of survey for parents and carers

Your school or organisation

20. What is the name of your organisation?

End of survey for organisations

Thank you for completing the consultation survey.

Please return your completed form by Friday 19 December 2021. You can:

- Post it to Sharon Sachania
Education Transformation and Improvement Team
Buckinghamshire Council
Walton Street Offices
Aylesbury
HP20 1UA
- Take it to one of our four main council access points located at:
 - The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF
 - Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA
 - Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BB
 - King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham, HP6 5AW