

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN) GREEN PAPER UPDATE JULY 2012

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REASON FOR ITEM

The Committee is asked to note the update provided on the Special Education Needs Green Paper.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

It is recommended that the Committee note the progress of the Green Paper and consider requesting progress reports on the timetable for implementation.

INFORMATION

1. At the last meeting of the Committee held on 6 June 2012, consideration was given to possible review topics for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The Committee asked that officers produce a draft scoping report for this meeting on a possible review on the SEN Green paper.
2. However, subsequent to the meeting officers in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee agreed that it would be premature for the Committee to consider undertaking a review until the proposals on SEN had been made legislation.

Progress

3. The SEN Green Paper: Support and Aspiration, a new approach to SEN and disability consultation paper was published on 9th March 2011 by the DFE. The overhaul of SEN under new legislation by the Government was also announced in the Queen's speech on 9 May 2012.
4. The Bill is expected to be introduced to Parliament in spring 2013 and receive Royal Assent and implementation in 2014. The legislation will draw on evidence from over 20 pathfinders set up in September 2011 and the interim evaluations are due in summer and late autumn 2012 with a final report in 2013.
5. The Government's vision for change includes a system which:
 - Picks up children's special needs early and puts in support which is routinely put in place quickly

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APPENDIX B

- Staff having the knowledge, understanding and skills to provide the right support for children and young people who have SEN or are disabled wherever they are
- Parents knowing what they can reasonably expect their local college, local authority and local services to provide, without them having to fight for it
- Provides an integrated assessment and single Education, Health and Care Plan from birth to 25 for children and young people with more complex needs
- Gives greater control for parents over the services they and their family use

6. By 2014 the Government has pledged to introduce:

- A single assessment process which is more streamlined, better involves children, young people and families and is completed quickly
- An Education, Health and Care Plan which brings services together and is focused on improving outcomes
- An offer of a personal budget for families with an Education, Health and Care Plan

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

To be aware of the significance of the new legislation and the proposed timetables for implementation.

Committee may like to request progress reports on implementation in Hillingdon once the outcomes of the pathfinders have been published.