



Title of proposed EIA	This proposal seeks approval for the establishment of the refreshed Birmingham SEND Strategy as outlined in the March 2023 Cabinet Report/Papers
Reference No	EQUA1061
EA is in support of	New Strategy
Review Frequency	Two Years
Date of first review	30/04/2025
Directorate	Education and Skills
Division	Children and Families Directorate
Service Area	SEND and Inclusion
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Harrison
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Victor Roman
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Helen Ellis
Purpose of proposal	To conduct an EIA for the updated Birmingham SEND Strategy
Data sources	Survey(s); Consultation Results; Statistical Database (please specify)
Please include any other sources of data	
ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community
Age details:	<p>The SEND Strategy will have a positive impact on children and young people (and their families) by shaping the way key services that support them to thrive are easily accessible through local provision at the right time for them.</p> <p>A key aim of the Strategy (and the partners who are committed to working together) is to ensure that support is delivered in the right place at the right time and in a location or via a setting that is suitable for that individual. A graduated approach to ensure support is delivered as early as possible, preventing a child's situation from escalating and in line with the SEND Code of Practice is crucial.</p> <p>The Strategy outlines how we will work within a Locality/District based</p>

approach to deliver in-person services that are universally accessible and well located for those who need support. This approach will enable accessibility for children and young people (and their families), improved cross organisation working and a more efficient way of delivering services.

Services have committed to principles which include relationship based and restorative practice approaches. There is also commitment to preparation for adulthood, ensuring that children are prepared as early as possible for living as independently as possible. This will support households of all ages benefit from taking a holistic approach to overcoming multiple or complex problems.

The strategy will positively impact on the lives of any Birmingham resident aged 0 - 25, with a specific disability and wishes to access education and/or support to access learning that will help them achieve their aspirations.

Protected characteristic: Disability

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Disability details:

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principles which include relationship based and restorative practice approaches. There is also commitment to preparation for adulthood, ensuring that children are prepared as early as possible for living as independently as possible. This will support households of all ages benefit from taking a holistic approach to overcoming multiple or complex problems.

The strategy will positively impact on the lives of any Birmingham resident aged 0 - 25, who has additional needs and wishes to access education and/or support to access learning that will help them achieve their aspirations.

Part of the Strategy involves a thorough and collaborative review of the available places in education settings, making sure there are enough places for children and young people who have specific needs and which can be met in mainstream or via appropriate, more specialist provision.

Protected characteristic: Sex

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Gender details:

There are very few specific issues and no negative implications regarding gender within the SEND Strategy.

We do and will continue to monitor the data reporting to ascertain if there are issues of gender with any specific category of additional need. As an example, it is currently reported that there is a lack of awareness/diagnosis for females with Autism currently. This is being addressed via the graduated approach within the Strategy and is also a key priority within the Birmingham Inclusion Strategy.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Not Applicable

Gender reassignment details:



Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Not Applicable

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Not Applicable

Pregnancy and maternity details:

Protected characteristics: Race

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Race details:

There are very few specific issues and no negative implications regarding race within the SEND Strategy.

People from ethnic minority backgrounds can experience additional barriers and challenges compared to those of the non-ethnic majority. These challenges can often include discrimination, structural biases & cultural barriers that can result in difficulty accessing services

The SEND Strategy will have a positive impact on race as the approaches implemented are non-discriminating and support will be provided on a person centred/relationship based model for all, regardless of ethnicity or any other characteristics. This includes ensuring that language is not a barrier to access, with an Information, Advice & Guidance approach that will ensure citizens whose first language is not English are able to access translation services as required.

We do and will continue to monitor the data reporting to ascertain if there are issues of race with any specific category of additional need. I.e. any over or under representation of particular ethnicity in Birmingham. These are constantly under review.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Religion or beliefs details:

In very rare circumstances, there can be the need for diplomatic and careful conversations regarding the support children and young people from certain religious/belief

backgrounds need . Eg. where there may be medical support required that is against the way certain religions and beliefs accept this kind of support.

The SEND Strategy via the person centre and relationship based approaches will manage these circumstances carefully and diplomatically to ensure appropriate outcomes are achieved for the child/young person.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation details:

Socio-economic impacts

Not Applicable

The SEND Strategy will result in positive socio-economic impacts.

Under the current arrangements there are many cases where families are reaching crisis point before seeking support. This can be down to being unable to travel and/or because they have not been accessing services early enough. There are wards where families are not receiving the same level of support as their equal counterparts from/in other wards.

It is well evidenced that crisis intervention is more costly than a preventative approach, for example the Department of Health and Social Care state that a review of international studies suggests around £14 of social benefit can be achieved for every £1 invested in prevention across a broad range of areas.

By implementing a whole system, graduated approach through the SEND Strategy we can drive a positive change in how we deliver services, which draws upon and enhances support that exists in the community. Through delivering in locality/district settings we can:

- Improve outcomes by tackling the root causes of entrenched issues and providing accessible

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and inclusive support</li> <li>• Facilitate access to support in the universal, targeted and specialist ways, for example proactively identifying needs before crisis and providing holistic, relationship based support</li> <li>• Identify the additional needs of a child early through improved capacity in education settings (at all ages) and ensure access to support is much more effective for all children and young people</li> <li>• Support individuals through a person centred approach with integrated teams working collaboratively in settings local to the child/young person</li> </ul>
Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.	Data analysis, cross referencing and development of a dedicated team to draw upon all of the different data sources across the Children and Families Directorate is a priority for the future.
Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended	NO
What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?	Data from the Birmingham observatory, the Children and Families Directorate data dashboard and the SEND Dashboard
Consultation analysis	<p>1.1 The SEND Strategy was a comprehensively co-produced document. It involved robust methodological triangulation of information, which included initial fact finding, series of engagement events and information from surveys.</p> <p>1.2 There were refinements via consultation and task and finish groups with approval through the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)/the SEND management groups and Birmingham CLT.</p> <p>1.3 Local school leaders and different levels of staff have been involved at all stages of the evolution of the SEND Strategy.</p>



## SEND Strategy

1.4 The Birmingham Parent Carer Forum have been a key partner in the development of the SEND Strategy and have endorsed the process followed and the content of the Strategy.

1.5 This SEND Strategy is an area wide strategy requiring partnership cooperation from a range of local stakeholders. The final draft has been accepted and will be going through the governance process for Birmingham Children's Trust and Birmingham and Solihull ICB/S.

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.

None

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact? There are no adverse impacts identified as a result of this strategy.

How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?

Baseline data will be used to commence benchmarking of the progress made for specific groups of cyp. Eg. number of young females with a diagnosis of Autism.

What data is required in the future?

Greater capacity with increased alignment for the data teams within the C&F Directorate will deliver more accurate and timely reports so monitoring can be undertaken more effectively.

Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)

No

If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.

N/A

Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal

No longer required to complete this box.

Consulted People or Groups

No longer required to complete this box.

Informed People or Groups

No longer required to complete this box.

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

There are no adverse/negative impacts anticipated as a result of the SEND Strategy being taken forward. One of



strategy being taken forward. One of the pillars of the strategy is a graduated approach, ensuring that children and young people receive the right support, in the right place and at the right time. All stakeholders in the partnership and across the local area have agreed to the content, the eight priorities and the ways of working outlined within the strategy. The outcomes and success measures clearly articulate how the strategy will lead to improved accessibility to services and the support all groups will be receiving.

#### QUALITY CONTORL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?

Yes

Quality Control Officer comments

I agree this EqIA

Decision by Quality Control Officer

Proceed for final approval

Submit draft to Accountable Officer?

Yes

Decision by Accountable Officer

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer

Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

Content Type: Item

Version: 35.0

Created at 31/01/2023 12:46 PM by ☐ Bob Harrison

Last modified at 10/02/2023 04:58 PM by Workflow on behalf of ☐ Victor Roman

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