

DRAFT CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING OPTIONS IN THE REDESIGN OF THE SENSORY SUPPORT SERVICE

Joint Operating Group, January 2019

This document sets out a draft list of criteria that we might use to help redesign the Sensory Support Service, and/or to appraise the two service delivery models that were considered. We have split these into WHAT (page 1) and HOW (page 2). Page 3 also sets out the proposed Outcomes that the Commissioners/JOG would like to achieve; these too are still in draft form.

What the redesigned service would do:

Essential / priority criteria

- meet all legislative requirements
- provides support from birth to 25 years
- provides support for sensory impaired children with EHCP and for those without whose needs are met at SEN Support by their education settings
- provides assessment and support for electively home educated children and young people with sensory impairment
- provides children and young people with face to face support from qualified teachers of the deaf / visually impaired
- provides training to the key staff working with sensory impaired children in mainstream / special settings
- provides equality of opportunity to access the service across the four local authorities
- monitors education and other outcomes for all the CYP it supports
- provides support 50 weeks per year
- connects families / builds community (including helping people to access emotional support where applicable through peer to peer support and sign-posting to other services)
- includes parent/carers in oversight/supervisory role and involves them in co-production of future service delivery arrangements through the Joint Operations Group
- makes particular effort to help 'hard to reach' families
- promotes new technology, especially where these can deliver cost savings and increase quality of service provided
- provides an overview of outcomes for CYP with SI across the four Local Authorities over time and independently of where they are placed

Desirable criteria

- supports children in academies and local authority maintained settings equally
- promotes consistent quality of service provision across the four authorities, by helping Sensory Support Staff staff to address any known weaknesses / build on strengths and share good practice
- offers continuing professional development and opportunities for career progression for all staff
- builds increased parent / carer confidence in the service through proactive engagement with parents through an equitable offer of group family learning

How the new service would do it

- Be sustainable: flexible enough to adapt/change to meet future needs, changes in levels of demand, demographic and/or technological change – the joint authorities and commissions will keep local offer provision under review to reflect changing population needs
- Be based on evidence
- Allow equality of access that is local / child friendly / family friendly
- Have the support of key stakeholder organisations and parent/carers
- Enable an outcome-focussed approach
- Enable a person centred approach and enabling models of support
- Enable the participation of children/young people/parents/carers
- Enable access to education and associated services including curriculum, wider school activities, facilities, equipment
- Enable the service to integrate and join up with other services for the benefit of the CYP it serves / to enhance and develop partnerships with other agencies and organisations
- Foster joint accountability for CYP access, progress and outcomes between mainstream settings and the service
- Clearly identify the respective responsibilities for different aspects of the support available to CYP (including education, health, social care; audiology, ophthalmology, transition support, technical support etc)
- Ensure that transitions between EYFS/primary/secondary/FE/HE are fully supported by the people who know CYP best
- enable improved access to specialist staff, both education and other, including external support and/or outreach services
- not generate significant new transport requirements
- leave the head of service sufficient flexibility to make the best use of their staff time as they see fit
- have a transparent and accountable governance arrangement that enables monitoring and evaluation of models of intervention to ensure ongoing effectiveness, continuous improvement and value for money
- potentially enable the service to become a centre (hub) of learning/excellence

Proposed Outcomes

Discussed at JOG meeting 28th January

1. CYP with Sensory Impairments in Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset are successfully included and have full access to the right support at the right time in Early Years, School Age and Post 16/ FE education settings.
2. CYP with Sensory Impairments in Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset are fully prepared for and successfully transition to adulthood from the earliest years. Transition planning is led by education settings and undertaken in partnership with CYP, families and Local Area professions and special educational provision that enables the development of skills in relation to independence & independent living skills, community participation, development of skills necessary for education, training and employment and maintenance of good mental and physical health into adulthood.
3. CYP with sensory impairments in Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset make good educational progress in line with or better than nationally published statistics. CYP with Sensory impairments and learning difficulties make progress that is in line with or better than agreed outcomes.
4. Local Area services and education providers in Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset accurately identify and meet the needs of CYP with sensory impairments through a graduated response, which includes assessing needs, planning for identified needs, implementing appropriate strategies or special educational provision and regular reviews of progress.
5. CYP with Sensory Impairments, their families, as well as professionals across education, health and social care can locate and access services appropriate to their support needs as part of a coproduced Local Offer to children, young people and adults.
6. The Service evidences impact and improved education and other outcomes for CYP with Sensory Impairments in Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset in line with agreed key performance indicators and best value within the resources available.