

Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service (BSCS)
Cross Border Policy (Pre-school, School Age and FE Colleges)

Policy last reviewed: September 2025
Agreed by: Leadership and Management Team
Shared with staff: September 2025
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The BSCS works across the six Berkshire Local Authorities (LA) as part of a joint arrangement to deliver specialist support for children and young people (CYP) with sensory impairment (SI). The principles of reciprocal cross border arrangements are set out below and cover preschool children attending early years settings and young people in primary, secondary and college education.

Occasionally alternate arrangements are put in place which do not align with the Cross Border policy for CYP with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). These are agreed with the relevant LA on an individual basis.

In some circumstances where the local sensory service is not able to deliver the level of support in an EHCP then an agreement will need to be reached between the LAs regarding the provision.

Note

- When referring to the Home Local Authority this is the place where the child or young person is resident i.e. their home address.
- Within Berkshire refers to the six Local Authorities who are part of the BSCS Joint arrangement between Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough, Bracknell Forest, Wokingham, West Berkshire and Reading.

- Parents should be made aware that the sensory support service delivery models may differ between Berkshire and their neighbouring LAs in terms of e.g. frequency of visits or specialist equipment used.

2. Pre Statutory school age children with or without an EHCP

- Preschool children with or without an EHCP will be seen by BSCS if they are resident in Berkshire.
- If a Berkshire preschool child attends an early years setting in a neighbouring LA, BSCS will continue to provide a home support programme alongside some visits to the setting in the neighbouring authority as appropriate.

3. School Age without an EHCP

- Pupils with sensory impairment will be seen by the SI service in which the School / College is located regardless of their home residency LA

4. School age pupils with an EHCP (including 6th form within a school)

Home residency within Berkshire and attends school in a neighbouring LA outside of Berkshire

- Sensory support is provided by the local sensory education service and charged to the relevant Berkshire LA and not the BSCS through a service level agreement (SLA)
- Specialist equipment such as radio aids (RA) or Braille technology (VI equipment) are provided by BSCS
- The local SI service should provide training, set up and balancing of the RA, provision of an annual report as well as attend the EHCP review meetings.
- Attendance by BSCS at review meetings can be requested by the pupil's home Berkshire LA
- The BSCS should liaise as early as possible with the neighbouring LA Sensory Service to determine how the level of provision laid out in the EHCP will be met.

Home residency outside Berkshire but attends Berkshire school e.g a pupil who lives in one of the Berkshire LAs but attends a Hampshire school would be seen by the Hampshire Sensory Service

- Sensory support is provided by BSCS and charged by BSCS to the home LA through a Service Level Agreement for an agreed amount of delivery (Inclusion Premium contract)

- Specialist equipment such as radio aids/ Braille technology are provided by home LA and managed by the BSCS as part of the visit delivery e.g. provision of training, set up, balancing of equipment
- Equipment repair costs are met by the home LA (not BSCS). The process for the sending off of equipment for repair will need to be agreed with each individual LA / SI Service. The process for repairs must be done in a timely way which does not disadvantage the CYP in line with the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Quality Standards.
- The BSCS will provide training and provision of an annual report as well as attend the EHCP review meetings as agreed with the setting.

5. Young People SI Pupils with an EHCP attending a Further Education College (FE)

Home Residency outside Berkshire but attends a Berkshire college e.g lives in Oxfordshire but attends Reading College

- BSCS support can be purchased via an Inclusion Premium contract by the college who may then charge the home local authority for the delivery of the SI support.
- Specialist equipment is provided by the home LA and managed by the BSCS as part of the agreed purchased visit delivery.
- Repairs costs are met by the home LA (not BSCS).
- The process for sending off equipment for repair will need to be agreed with each individual LA / SI Service. The process for repairs must be done in a timely way which does not disadvantage the CYP in line with national Quality Standards.
- The BSCS will provide training and provision of an annual report as well as attend the EHCP review meetings as part of the service delivery as agreed with the college.

SI Pupils with an EHCP Home residency in Berkshire and attends College outside Berkshire e.g Pupil lives in Maidenhead and attends Farnborough College in Hampshire

- Sensory support is provided by the local sensory education services as part of their agreed arrangements with the college.
- Specialist equipment e.g. radio aids/ braille note touch is provided by BSCS and BSCS will charge the college for the equipment provision via a hire form.
- The local SI service should provide training, set up and balancing of the RA/ VI equipment, provision of an annual report as well as attend the EHCP review meetings.

- Attendance by BSCS at review meetings can be requested by the CYP's home Berkshire LA
- The BSCS should liaise as early as possible with the neighbouring LA SI Service in order to determine how the level of provision laid out in the EHCP will be met.