

SEND Partnership Team - Engagement

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of information to be presented to members on the progress of the Lancashire SEND Partnership engagement with parent/carers.

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- i. Note the information presented and consider any issues arising from the information; and
- ii. Identify any further actions required following this update.

Background and Advice

In November 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Lancashire to judge the effectiveness of the implementation of the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

As a result of the [findings](#) of the inspection and in accordance with the Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) determined that the local authority and the area Clinical Commissioning Groups are jointly responsible for submitting and delivering the action plan ([written statement of action](#)) to improve services. The Department for Education is holding regular reviews to monitor the progress locally, with the first meeting taking place on 20 April 2018.

Action plan

The Action Plan sets out the changes we need to make to address the recommendations that Ofsted and the CQC made in their report. The Action Plan has been produced by the key partners represented on the SEND Partnership Board. The Board is accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the NHS and

the Council. The Board is supported by five working groups covering the corresponding aspects of the Plan:

- 1) Strategy
- 2) Commissioning and Access to Provision
- 3) Engagement
- 4) Identifying and Meeting Need
- 5) Improving Outcomes

Working together with children and families is essential to making the plan succeed. Further developments are taking place within individual working groups to include children, young people and their families in all the decision making. The Engagement Working Group is leading on the delivery of a number of key actions and liaising with the other Working Groups to ensure a coordinated and holistic response.

Engagement Working Group

The key actions being monitored by the DfE are:

- Ensure that parents/carers, children and young people are fully engaged in decision making at a strategic and individual level
- Develop an accurate understanding of SEND across the local area, to support leadership and strategic decision making

Progress so far:

- Engagement Working Group established, made up of all key partners represented at the SEND Partnership Board
- Working Group identifying the detail of the Engagement delivery plan agreeing key tasks as follows:
 1. create a Participation Strategy
 2. ensure a culture of co-production with parent/carers and CYP
 3. improve Local Offer accessibility and quality of information
 4. deliver the annual POET (Personal Outcomes Evaluation Toolkit) survey
 5. facilitate participation and engagement with parent/carers and CYP.
- Established 'Your Child, Your Voice' engagement sessions for parents/carers of CYP with SEND
- Completed POET (Personal Outcomes Evaluation Toolkit) survey
- Actively supporting parent/carers to have a collective voice as a parent/carer representative group and be the voice of parents/carers throughout the improvement of SEND services
- Supporting and building the parent/carer communication channels

Outcomes to date:

- Over 150 parent/carers from across Lancashire signed up to attend 'Your Child, Your Voice' engagement sessions so far
- Of the parents/carers attended so far, 97% said they were able to speak to other parents and 94% felt their views were valued

- Themes and concerns raised by parents/carers are in line with those raised in the Ofsted and CQC inspection.
- An update on July position of 'Your Child, Your Voice' will be provided at the meeting.

Consultations

Lancashire SEND Partnership Vision and Strategy - 'Your Child, Your Voice'
parent/carers in initial stages

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

There are no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A