

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 18 September 2018

Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership – Update on the implementation of the Written Statement of Action

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Executive Summary

Lancashire local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities services were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in November 2017, to judge how effectively the special educational needs and disability reforms had been implemented, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The inspection identified two fundamental failings and twelve areas of significant concern.

The partners in Lancashire were required to produce a written statement of action, setting out the immediate priorities for action; the progress on implementing these actions is monitored by the Department for Education and NHS England.

The Health and Wellbeing Board had requested regular updates on progress at their bi-monthly meetings; this is the second update to the Board.

Recommendation/s

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- (i) Note the progress of delivery on the written statement of action.
- (ii) Receive an update on progress at the November Board meeting.

Background

As described in the report to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2018, the Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the written statement of action and for reporting on progress bi-monthly to the Health and Wellbeing Board. John Readman, Executive Director for Education and Children's Services and Mark Youlton, Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officer are the accountable officers for SEND and have been appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.

1. Progress since the 17 July 2018 report

- ✓ SEND Partnership brand/identity agreed
- ✓ Delivery plans completed to drive partnership activity in the short and longer term
- ✓ Meetings held with all Head Teacher Associations; representation agreed for Board and Working Groups

- ✓ Feedback from 'Your Child, Your Voice' engagement events collated and informing vision and strategy
- ✓ Parent/carers taken up roles within the partnership
- ✓ Review of Local Offer undertaken and website specification developed with parents and young people
- ✓ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment scope finalised and data set determined
- ✓ 2016/17 data dashboard published end of July and updated in August
- ✓ Commissioning Framework for Children and Young People's Services agreed
- ✓ Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnostic pathway for Morecambe Bay agreed
- ✓ Consultation on Pan-Lancashire Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Diagnostic pathway completed
- ✓ Achievement data analysed by phase/district/need and updated in August
- ✓ SENCO Cluster Meetings held across the county

2. Key action over the next reporting period

- Agree SEND Partnership Vision and Strategy
- Agree joint commissioning function, including for SEND
- Appoint supplier for build of SEND Local Offer website
- Work with Department for Education contractor to facilitate new Parent Carer Forum
- Define quality standards for Education Health and Care Plans
- Deliver shared training for SENDOs and SENCOs
- Agree targets for improvements in Exclusion and Attainment outcomes
- Implement the Designated Clinical Officer service with partners
- Target support for those with Education Health and Care Plans at risk of permanent exclusion

3. Monitoring progress

Internal monitoring of delivery takes place monthly by the SEND Partnership team and is reported to the SEND Partnership Board at every meeting; initially monthly and from September 2018 on a bi-monthly basis.

External monitoring by the Department for Education and NHS England takes place at quarterly review meetings; the first review took place on 20th April 2018 and the second on the 25th July 2018.

The overall 'amber' assessment by the Department for Education/NHS England on the progress the Lancashire SEND Partnership is making concurs with our own view. All deadlines were met, apart from one in May and two in June and activity is underway to progress these three actions to a satisfactory conclusion.

Conclusion

Initial progress to develop and implement the foundations for change has been timely. Delivering the required actions by the end of September deadlines, in readiness for the October Department for Education/NHS England review, will be challenging however mitigating action is in place to accelerate progress.

List of background papers

Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disability Written Statement of Action (May 2018)

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/905171/lancashire-send-partnership-written-statement-of-action.pdf>