

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 29 January 2019

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

Appendix 'A' and 'B' refers

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Executive Summary

Lancashire local area SEND services were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in November 2017 to judge how effectively the special educational needs and disability (SEND) 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 (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE).

Since the report to the last meeting in November, work has continued to progress the actions set out in the written statement of action.

This is the fourth update to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- (i) Note the progress of delivery on the written statement of action;
- (ii) Receive an update on the Improvement Plan and progress at the March Board meeting;
- (iii) Note the changes to the external monitoring process in 2019 as described in paragraph 3.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Lancashire SEND Partnership Board is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the written statement of action (action plan) and for reporting on progress bi-monthly to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Edwina Grant, Executive Director for Education and Children's Services and Julie Higgins, Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officer are the accountable officers for SEND and Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board respectively.
- 1.2 The action plan has been supported by five thematic delivery plans which are monitored monthly against the action plan deadlines by the SEND Partnership team. Progress is reported bi-monthly to the SEND Partnership Board and the DfE/NHSE.

2. Progress since the 20 November 2018 report

- 2.1 The actions in the delivery plans are RAG rated; those which are completed are rated green when supporting evidence has been provided, whilst actions rated amber are in progress, with/without evidence. Progress since the last report to the Board includes:
- ✓ Agreed SEND Partnership Strategy 2019-2021 with impact measures
 - ✓ Agreed SEND Partnership Working Together strategy (Appendix A)
 - ✓ Agreed SEND Partnership Quality Framework (Appendix B)
 - ✓ Held conferences for Governors and programme in place for regular SEND news articles
 - ✓ Completed training of 30 SEND reviewers
 - ✓ Published SEND Partnership December Newsletter (Appendix C)
 - ✓ Commenced recommissioning of Speech and Language and Occupational Therapies
 - ✓ Commenced re-design and build of Local Offer
 - ✓ Re-established Parent Carer Forum
 - ✓ Completed SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for publication January 2019
 - ✓ Agreed Local Area Partnerships to be implemented in January 2019
- 2.2 As part of the ongoing reporting to DfE/NHSE there has been a requirement to provide evidence as a result of action undertaken. The following are illustrative examples:
- SEND Board attendance is consistently more than 90%
 - 616 views of the data dashboard
 - 422 parents/ children and young people provided feedback on the ASD/ADHD pathway
 - 135 families on the waiting list (all) in North Lancashire have been seen as part of the ASD assessments process
 - 200 practitioners, 620 parents, carers and 382 children and young people completed the POET survey
 - Readership of the SEND Partnership newsletter by schools is above 80%
 - 2000 parent, carers are following SEND Partnership news via the Local Offer on Facebook
 - 285 educators attended 18 SEND partnership events across the county
 - 241 Special Educational Needs Coordinators representing 218 schools attended joint events with LCC Special Educational Needs Officers
 - Foundation Stage children with SEND have rising trend for 'Good Level of Development'
 - Key Stage 2 children with SEND have rising trend overall and in each subject
 - Exclusions of children/young people with an EHCP reduced to one in autumn 2018

3. Monitoring progress

- 3.1 Internal monitoring of the written statement of action takes place monthly by the SEND Partnership team and is reported to the SEND Partnership Board at their bi-monthly meeting.

- 3.2 External monitoring by the DfE and NHSE has been taking place quarterly, with the last meeting on 18 December 2018. The overall assessment, on the progress the Lancashire SEND Partnership is making, is now considered to be Green/Amber concurring with our own view with further monitoring to be undertaken in July prior to a possible re-inspection in Autumn.
- 3.3 The review by DfE/NHSE appointed advisors in December concluded that sufficient progress has been made in implementing the written statement of action to cease the quarterly monitoring meetings. The robust governance arrangements and the draft Improvement Plan 2019-2021 provided the necessary assurance that improvement is and will continue to be a priority for Lancashire. The Improvement Plan will replace the written statement of action.
- 3.4 A formal notification of this is yet to be received from the DfE; it is expected that a written note on progress will still be required, on a three or six month basis, by the Children's Minister.
- 3.5 Ahead of the Ofsted re-inspection of SEND in Lancashire in 2019 a review meeting in preparation will take place with DfE/NHSE advisors in July 2019, for which a summary of progress against the initial Ofsted findings and recommendations will be provided.

Conclusion

The draft Improvement Plan will be considered by the SEND Partnership Board in January 2019; any actions within the written statement of action which are not yet fully implemented will be carried forward. The Plan will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board at their meeting in March 2019, along with progress made.

List of background papers

Appendix A Lancashire SEND Partnership Working Together Strategy
Appendix B Lancashire SEND Quality Framework
Appendix C Lancashire SEND December Partnership [News page](#)