

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 19 November 2019

Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership – Assessment of Progress on the SEND Improvement Plan and Accelerated Plans

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Executive Summary

Lancashire local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 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.

Partners in Lancashire were required to produce a Written Statement of Action, setting out the immediate priorities for action. Progress on the implementation of these actions has been monitored by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England. The Written Statement of Action has been updated and any ongoing actions included in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Improvement Plan for the period April 2019 to December 2020. The Health and Wellbeing Board received an update on progress at their last meeting on 10 September 2019.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- (i) Note the delay in the re-visit from Ofsted.
- (ii) Consider the report on progress to date in delivering the actions in the SEND Improvement Plan and the Accelerated Plans.

Background

- 1.1 The Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the Written Statement of Action and the updated version known as the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan.
- 1.2 Progress on these plans has been reported bi-monthly to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board using a Red, Amber, Green rating. Completed actions and those not yet started are also recorded.

- 1.3 A re-visit by Ofsted to assess whether the local area has made sufficient progress in securing improvement was expected to take place before the end of October 2019. A presentation to outline the process was shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board at their last meeting, along with a summary of the self-assessment.

2. Inspection Re-visit

- 2.1 To date there has been no notification of inspection; it is understood that this is due to a shortage of inspectors.
- 2.2 The self-assessment and associated paperwork will continue to be updated, with focus maintained on delivering the Improvement Plan.
- 2.3 All other arrangements are in place, including the draft presentation, named participants for discussion with inspectors, the draft timetable and data/evidence.

3. Progress Report

- 3.1 The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan and the Accelerated Plans are subject to monthly reviews for which detailed information is provided by action leads. The latest review took place at the end of October 2019.
- 3.2 The County Council's audit team recently reviewed the adequacy and effectiveness of the controls and procedures in place for managing and implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Improvement Plan. The auditors have provided '**substantial assurance**' about the arrangements for managing and implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Improvement Plan.
- 3.3 The Improvement Plan was approved by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board in March 2019 for the period April 2019 to December 2020; it includes action carried forward from the Written Statement of Action. The Plan has 27 action areas supported by 94 specific actions, each with a specified lead and clear deadline. The plan is organised under four key priorities aligned with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Strategy. The report provides a summary of progress and by exception highlights action where there is significant delay or risk of delay.

- 3.4 The status in relation to each action at the end of October 2019, is as follows:

Rating	Status	Actions	Total
Blue	Action completed and signed off	33	94
Green	Action will achieve completion deadline	17	
Amber	Action underway	32	
Red	Action delayed and at risk	5	
Grey	Action yet to commence	7	

- 3.5 There are five delayed actions. Of these the review the Personal Budget policy is expected to be completed in November 2019; the improved Local Offer site was soft launched on 10 October 2019; the development of a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Sufficiency Strategy and work with post-16 providers to develop Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision has commenced.

3.6 Of those actions yet to commence there is risk of delay with one action due in January 2020 i.e. to review the access criteria for support from the Children with Disabilities Social Work team. This is as a result of capacity.

3.7 All other actions are completed, on track or in train. Those with amber ratings include ongoing actions, such as increasing the skills base of staff, expanding the membership of the Parent Carer Forum and the representation of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in participation activities. Where the implementation of completed action is ongoing, such as the new specifications for Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy Services and development of the Neuro Developmental Pathway there is also an Amber rating.

3.8 The **Accelerated Plans** provide greater detail than the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan about the work taking place in areas where there was concern about pace. They are being closely monitored by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Operational Group.

3.9 There are five plans in total; four are on track. These are focused on: improving the quality of Education Health and Care Plans; improving education outcomes; implementing the Neuro-developmental Pathway and the process of transition from Children's Social Care to Adult Services. The fifth plan to improve the accessibility of and information on the Local Offer is delayed - the soft launch of the new site took place on 10 October 2019 and information continues to be updated and revised. The full launch, supported by promotion, will take place in January 2020 with the theme 'new year, new site'. This will be followed by user testing.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Since the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan to update the Written Statement of Action in April 2019, thirty-three actions have been completed, with a further seventeen scheduled to be completed by the deadline and thirty-two underway. This represents 87% of the action across a large programme of improvement work. The remaining actions are either delayed or not yet started, with deadlines from December 2019 to December 2020.

List of background papers

Handbook for the inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities - Part 3

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A