

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 8 September 2020

Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership – SEND Inspection Re-visit

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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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. The Written Statement of Action was subsequently updated and progress on the implementation of these actions monitored by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England. Progress has been reported regularly to the SEND Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

An inspection revisit by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) took place in February and March 2020; the report was published on 5 August 2020 and circulated to members of the Board on the same day.

An Accelerated Improvement Plan focused on the five areas where sufficient progress has not yet been achieved must be submitted to the DfE/NHS(E) on 28 September 2020. Due to the tight timescales to prepare, the plan is currently in development and a working draft is attached (appendix A). This Plan will be formally monitored by the Department for Education (DfE/NHS(E)) and progress reported to the SEND Partnership Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- (i) Note receipts of the report from Ofsted/Care Quality Commission following the joint area SEND inspection re-visit;
- (ii) Consider the draft Accelerated Progress Plan (Appendix 'A') to address the five areas where it has been judged that sufficient progress has not yet been achieved;
- (iii) Establish a sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Terms of Reference (Appendix 'B') to scrutinise the progress on the implementation of the Plan and the associated Key Performance Indicators.

Lancashire Ofsted/Care Quality Commission joint area inspection revisit

To determine whether sufficient progress to secure improvement in relation to the twelve areas of significant concern had been achieved, as a result of the work undertaken by the SEND Partnership since the inspection in 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission undertook an on-site inspection between 9-12 March 2020.

Prior to the on-site visit, members of the Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership provided relevant data, information and 239 pieces of evidence. Whilst on site Inspectors spoke with 89 colleagues from the council, health, education, parent carers and children and young people. An open meeting was attended by more than 70 parent carers and the Ofsted parent carer survey received a good response.

The re-visit concluded on 12 March 2020, with verbal feedback on the findings presented to Council Members; health and council senior leaders and members of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership. During the verbal feedback, inspectors read out an additional statement of encouragement to reassure the local area that whilst there have been considerable challenges and there is still further improvement required, the significance of the journey was recognised.

The outcomes from the re-visit are set out in the report; in seven of the twelve areas progress has been sufficient to mean that external monitoring of these areas is no longer required. Some of the important improvements that were cited include:

- Provision for SEND is a priority for leaders
- Strong working relationships across the partnership
- Clear quality assurance systems in place
- Good practice being shared across the area
- Improved outcomes for children and young people

In the remaining five areas the good work that has taken place was recognised, with further action required to:

- Continue to improve the understanding of the local area
- Further develop and evaluate the commissioning arrangements
- Improve the effectiveness of the new neuro-developmental pathway
- Improve transition arrangements in 0 to 25 healthcare services
- Implement the changes to the Local Offer

Next steps

The local area is now required to submit an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) to the Department for Education (DfE) SEND Intervention Unit and NHS England/Improvement (E/I), setting out the action leaders will take over the next six to twelve months, the

milestones to assess progress and the key performance measures to demonstrate impact. The APP uses a required format and must be submitted on 28 September 2020.

Officers are currently developing the APP and a working draft is attached at Appendix 'A' for consideration and feedback by 22 September 2020. The Ofsted report was also considered by the council's Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee on 2 September 2020. Feedback from the Committee will be shared verbally with the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership Board will consider the draft APP on 21 September 2020.

Progress on the APP will be reviewed by the DfE and NHS (E/I) after six months and twelve months; there will be no further Ofsted/CQC revisit inspections.

As the accountable body for the APP it is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board establish a formal sub-committee to ensure robust oversight of the APP on behalf of the Board, so that progress achieved to date is maintained. A formal sub-committee has powers delegated to it by the main committee and will be held in public, therefore open and transparent agendas and reports. The council's Democratic Services colleagues will provide administration and clerking support.

The draft Terms of Reference for consideration and approval are attached at Appendix 'B', with the proposed membership comprising County Councillors Turner and Williamson; two Non-Executives from the Joint Committee of the Clinical Commissioning Groups; two lead officers Hilary Fordham Chief Operating Officer Morecambe Bay CCG and Sarah Callaghan Director of Education and Skills, LCC. The membership to agree a chair.

List of background papers

Report from Ofsted/CQC following the Joint area SEND revisit in Lancashire

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80480>