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Morecambe Bay
Clinical Commissioning Group

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Dear Gary

Supporting Pupils at Special Schools with Medical Conditions

Thank you for the report produced by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As you are aware a number of commissioners from across Lancashire were involved in the process to develop the report and we welcome the impetus this has given to working with Special Schools to address the needs of Children and Young People as part of the SEND agenda.

We are pleased to say that the work and collaboration that started as part of the review process has continued and the task and finish group which was set up to look at some aspects of what has been raised is continuing. This will enable a full picture of the differences in provision and enable work towards how these might be addressed within the resources we all have available. We are pleased to say that this work will help us to move forward in addressing a number of the recommendations made.

We would stress that the work needs to continue on a collaborative basis and would welcome the Committee's continued encouragement to all parties on this point.

We have also worked with our officer colleagues in LCC to ensure that the responses we have given are consistent with work they are doing and hope that when the responses are received from the Council this will be reflected.

I have attached the response to each recommendation. You may also be aware that we have included the need to address these recommendations in the SEND Improvement Plan so that progress can be overseen by the SEND Partnership Board.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Fordham
Chief Operating Officer
Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group on Behalf of all CCGs

cc Julia Westaway, Morecambe Bay CCG
Lesley Tiffen, Fylde and Wyre CCG
Steve Flynn, Greater Preston and Chorley and South Ribble CCGs
Kirsty Hamer, East Lancashire CCG
Sarah Derbyshire, West Lancashire CCG

Response from the relevant NHS Body to the recommendations of the Supporting Pupils at Special Schools with Medical Conditions scrutiny task and finish group report

The task and finish group recommended that Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) give consideration to:

Recommendation 1

Collaboration with all special schools in Lancashire to review the current offer with a view to establishing a single proactive and equitable commissioning service specification reflecting the needs of pupils attending all special schools, taking account of their specialisms.

Response:

Following the work of the task and finish group, the Clinical Commissioning Groups have been working jointly with nominated Special School Head Teachers to ascertain the current offer of provision. A working group has been established and surveys for special schools, health providers and commissioners have been developed and distributed to gain a comprehensive view of the:

- current health needs of children within each school
- NHS (CCG and public Health) commissioned health provision delivered in each school
- Support special schools commission and provide themselves to meet the health needs of their populations
- training programmes and support available to the school workforce

Once the current offer and levels of need are understood, the working group will consider, in line with guidance and the evidence base, future joint commissioning arrangements which make best use of the resources to meet the health needs of children and young people within special school settings.

Recommendation 2

Facilitate needs led discussions by ensuring appropriate representation must attend all special school EHC Plan meetings.

Response:

The CCGs will ask our Designated Clinical Officers to work with providers to establish a set of principles with clear expectations for health involvement, which are needs based. It may not be that health professionals can attend every meeting, but we will agree a suitable input that is relevant to the needs of the child.

Recommendation 3

Jointly review existing assessment tools for nursing/clinical needs in school with a view to developing a consistent approach.

Response:

The Designated Clinical Officers have already commenced work on a process to review assessment tools and ensure consistency across the areas.

Recommendation 4

Collaboration with providers to identify where needed and in addition to registered nurses, the option of establishing mixed skilled teams of health professionals (including roles such as assistant practitioners) to deliver integrated clinical services in special schools.

Response:

It is proposed that this recommendation will be considered as part of the working group detailed above in response to recommendation 1. Once the surveys have been collated, we will be able to assess needs, understand current provision and capacity and consider potential future models, which use the total resource in health and education in the most efficient and effective way.

Recommendations 5 and 6

Collaboration with providers to review and establish a single equitable and proactive training offer for special schools.

Collaboration with providers to ensure that all health professionals/clinical support receive appropriate training for the special school setting(s) in which they work and to explore any opportunity for joint training with educational professionals/support. Consideration should also be given to determine how joint training should be funded.

Response:

It is accepted that this is important and we will work jointly with schools and the local authority to develop a standardised training offer for the workforce in special schools; health and education. Work has already commenced to capture the baseline position and it is envisaged that the work undertaken in response to the recommendation for the Local Authority to develop and agree a Lancashire wide interpretation of the national guidance, will influence this.

Recommendation 7

Identify where there are co-situated sites (special schools on the same site as mainstream schools) to ensure and enable all relevant health professionals receive the appropriate training and therefore the relevant competencies to work across both sites and for this to be referenced in those job descriptions.

Response:

Universal school nursing is not a CCG commissioning responsibility, but we do accept that special school nursing should be offering needs led support to all children who require it. This is an area that requires further review and understanding which can be developed into a joint programme of work with schools. Equally pupils within special schools are entitled to the Healthy Child Programme and we are happy to work with public health colleagues to ensure a joined up offer.

Recommendation 8

Give all special schools in Lancashire, the county council, Lancashire Parent Carer Forum and POWAR (the county council's participation council group for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities - Participate, Opportunity, Win, Achieve and Respect) the opportunity to have their say on any new commissioning service specification before it is signed off.

Response:

Engaging with key stakeholders and service users is a key part of our commissioning process. The Two Way Communication Model, as detailed in the SEND Partnership Strategy, provides us with a mechanism to be able to do this effectively going forward. Commissioning decisions whilst ultimately taken by CCG Governing Bodies can be influenced and fed into via the Lancashire SEND Partnership Board and informed by the three SEND Local Area Partnerships which will comprise of parents, carers, young people, special schools and the county council.

Recommendation 9

Managing expectations of education professionals by informing all special school governing bodies of the provision that is in place, confirming roles and responsibilities (including Designated Clinical Officers), where they can go for information and advice and how they can lodge a complaint. Furthermore, any variation in contract should be reported to all relevant special school governing bodies.

Response:

The Designated Clinical Officers roles and responsibilities have been communicated via the portal and are defined on the Local Offer, along with information regarding our

Appendix 'A'

complaints procedures. The DCOs have also attended a number of head teacher forums to provide information about their roles and how to access information and advice.

It is anticipated that ongoing two way communication will be enabled via the SEND Local Area Partnerships as detailed above.