

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 20 November 2018

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

Contact for further information:

Sian Rees, Improvement Partner SEND, 07833 300 216

sian.rees@lancashire.gov.uk

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

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

Recommendation

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- (i) Note the progress of delivery on the written statement of action;
- (ii) Receive an update on progress at the January Board meeting
- (iii) Note the likely changes to the external monitoring process in 2019 as described in paragraph 4.

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. John Readman, interim Executive Director for Education and Children's Services and Mark Youlton, CCG Chief Officer are the accountable officers for SEND and Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board respectively.
- 1.2 The action plan is 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 18 September 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. The following has been completed since the last report to the Board:

- ✓ Partnership vision and strategy (attached as appendix A)
- ✓ Interim joint commission strategy for SEND
- ✓ Pan-Lancashire Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Diagnostic Pathway (high-level)
- ✓ Interim Chair and Vice-Chair of Parent Carer Forum appointments
- ✓ Quality Standards for Education Health and Care Plans co-produced, including contributions from 241 SENCO's representing 218 schools
- ✓ Designated Clinical Officer service in place
- ✓ System to monitor children with an EHCP at risk of permanent exclusion in place – two of the last three exclusions rescinded
- ✓ Third SEND Partnership Newsletter (attached as appendix B) published

2.2 In addition:

- ✓ Provider contracts formally amended to require a SEND Champion and SEND training for staff
- ✓ Tender prepared for the re-build of the Local Offer
- ✓ SEND service supported to lead 18 events across the county, involving 285 educators (Head teachers, SENCO's/SENDOS and Early Years leaders)
- ✓ Review and redesign of SEMH/Alternative Provision implemented

3 Key action over the next reporting period

3.1 The following key actions have deadlines for December 2018 and will be reported on at the next meeting:

- Determine impact measures as part of the strategy
- Develop transitions policy
- Agree co-production strategy
- Commence build of Local Offer
- Test Quality Standards for Tier One audits
- Hold conferences for Chairs of Governors
- Implement training programme for SEND reviewers

4 Monitoring progress

4.1 Internal monitoring of delivery takes place monthly by the SEND Partnership team and is reported to the SEND Partnership Board at their bi-monthly meeting.

4.2 External monitoring by the DfE and NHSE takes place quarterly; the last meeting took place on 11 October, with a further meeting scheduled for 18 December. The overall assessment, on the progress the Lancashire SEND Partnership is making to date, by the DfE/NHSE is expected to be Amber, concurring with our own view.

- 4.3 The review of progress in December with DfE/NHSE appointed advisors will consider whether satisfactory progress has been made overall; an improvement plan will be required for that meeting, along with assurance that the governance arrangements will continue to be robust.
- 4.4 Following the meeting a decision will be made about the continued monitoring of progress in Lancashire, though a report to the Children's Minister, either on a three monthly or six monthly basis.
- 4.5 In addition to this, those areas that have a written statement of action in place are expected to be re-inspected by Ofsted in 2019. Inspections are likely to occur 18 months from the date of the original inspection letter i.e. June 2019 in Lancashire.

Conclusion

Progress to develop and implement service improvement continues to be in line with the requirements of the action plan. Delivery plans were reviewed at the end of October, when progress was judged to be on schedule or sufficiently in train to give confidence that action will be completed. Any actions not completed will be included in the Improvement Plan referred to in paragraph 4.3 above.

List of background papers

Appendix C Lancashire SEND Partnership draft vision and strategy

Lancashire SEND Partnership Newsletter <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/shaping-send-together/lancashire-send-partnership/send-partnership-update/>