

Cabinet response 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 where applicable the Cabinet Members for 'Children, Young People and Schools'* and 'Health and Wellbeing'** give consideration to:

1. Writing to the Secretary of State for the Department for Education (DfE) to request that the statutory guidance on "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" be reviewed and that the grounds for review be determined collectively with all special schools and CCGs. *

Response:

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Schools will ask Officers to write to the Secretary of State for the Department for Education (DfE) to request that the statutory guidance be reviewed.

2. Collaborating with special schools through Lancashire Special School Headteachers' Association (LSSHTA) to produce supplementary guidance to complement the DfE's statutory guidance and to assist special school settings in producing their medical conditions policies and for this to be published on the Schools' Portal. In addition for the supplementary guidance to clarify who funds specific aspects of care. Furthermore, to ensure that it receives legal clearance.*

Response:

Officers of the County Council will work through an existing task and finish group, involving the CCGs and Special schools, to co-develop supplementary guidance to complement the DfE's statutory guidance and to provide greater clarity of the support and service provision that is available and the associated funding arrangements.

3. Collaborating with the CCGs, providers, all special schools, parents and carers to produce a multi-agency protocol to clarify the roles and responsibilities and accountability of both education and health professionals on what is deemed to be a basic care intervention and a medical/clinical intervention when supporting pupils with medical conditions in special school settings. Taking into account the findings of this review and for the protocol to form a part of the county council's supplementary guidance.*

Response:

This will be taken forward as part of the development of supplementary guidance.

4. Collaborating with the CCGs, providers, all special schools, parents and carers to review the supplementary guidance on an annual basis.*

Response:

A review is proposed one year after publication and then, more proportionately, on a bi-annual basis unless significant issues are raised through the Inclusion Service Partnership governance arrangements or there is a change in the National Guidance.

5. Enabling the sharing of intelligence and a consistent refresh of data (from Inclusion Service and children's social care) to help inform CCGs and providers the needs of children including those who are transitioning across schools, across boundaries, age groups and leaving education, and to also inform training requirements of both health and education professionals.*

Response:

A new online tool provides access to school population data for children with Inclusion Service. The webpage helps display accurate information in an easy to read dashboard.

It is currently hosted by Lancashire County Council and supported by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

[https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/education/Inclusion Service-dashboard/](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/education/Inclusion%20Service-dashboard/)

6. Incorporating public health universal services within all special school settings, to meet the holistic health needs of those children and young people.**

Response:

The commissioned Public Health Nursing services are required to ensure the school aged population is offered the Healthy Child Programme, a national framework of universal and progressive services for children and young people to promote optimal health and wellbeing. Access to services is not subject to school setting and will include offering the programme to children who do not attend a mainstream school, including in special school settings, children educated at home, and children missing from education.

7. Addressing the issue of work space to accommodate school nurses and health professionals including therapy staff and their needs in special schools.

Response:

The County Council does not have control over day to day utilisation of space within Special Schools. The County Council will however work with schools and providers to better understand the issues and to ascertain whether there is a role for the

County Council in facilitating access for health professional and therapy staff on school sites.

8. Enabling all health professionals to access a computer with access to relevant systems with sufficient connectivity (firewall/Wi-Fi) to assist them and ensuring that upgrades from the NHS are co-ordinated with the county council.*

Response:

The County Council will provide health professionals with access to County Council systems where appropriate. However, the County Council does not have control over ICT connectivity within the school environment. Connectivity for health professional is dependent on school ICT administrators configuring systems and enabling access where appropriate.

9. Promoting existing equipment stores via the Schools' Portal. *

Response:

The County Council will promote the existing equipment stores via the Lancashire Schools Portal and Lancashire Local Offer.

10. The creation of transport healthcare plans and for these to be based on pupils' individual healthcare plans [and EHC Plans] and to include emergency contacts. In addition to ensure that mechanisms are put in place to share intelligence between the Inclusion Service team and the county council's transport team. Furthermore, enable passenger assistants and drivers to have the relevant training (CPR), skills, knowledge and access to transport healthcare plans for the relevant journeys to and from school.*

Response:

The County Council will ensure that guidance is produced on the creation and use of healthcare plans for CYP who have medical needs and are provided with transport assistance and ensure emergency contact information is included within these plans.

A review of information sharing between the Inclusion Service and transport team will be undertaken to ensure all relevant information is shared and that drivers and passenger assistants have access to them.

A review of training requirements of passenger assistants and drivers will be undertaken.

11. The report of the task and finish group be passed to the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board to note and consider those recommendations highlighted for the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to respond.**

Response:

The proposed actions will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the next Inclusion Service Update to the Board.

12. The possibility of incorporating the task and finish group's recommendations within mainstream school settings once the outcome of the healthy child programme appeal is known.* and **

Response:

A number of the actions proposed or taken, such as the Inclusion Service data tool, are of benefit to mainstream school settings. The development of supplementary guidance is also expected to have benefits to mainstream school settings. Whilst our priority is to address the recommendations made in respect of access to support within special schools, if there is learning that can be communicated and applied to mainstream settings that will be done.