

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 19 March 2019

Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership - SEND Improvement Plan 2019-2020 Progress Update

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refers)

Contact for further information: Sian Rees, Improvement Partner SEND, Lancashire County Council, Tel: 01772 535162, sian.rees@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Lancashire local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (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 has been closely monitored by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE).

Since the report to the last meeting in January 2019, work has continued to progress outstanding and ongoing actions, of which many are now completed. A Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership Improvement Plan will replace the action plan from January 2019 – December 2020.

Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- (i) Receive the update on progress as presented to the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE) on 18 December 2018.
- (ii) Receive and consider the current position on the implementation of the Written Statement of Action.
- (iii) Receive the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Plan at their next meeting, noting that this will continue to drive forward improvement over the next two years.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 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. Edwina Grant OBE, Executive Director for Education and Children's Services and Julie Higgins, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chief Officer are the accountable officers for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board respectively.
- 1.2 To date the action plan has been supported by five more detailed delivery plans which are monitored monthly against the action plan deadlines by the nominated

lead and the SEND Partnership team. Progress is reported bi-monthly to the SEND Partnership Board and the DfE/NHSE.

- 1.3 At the last monitoring visit by the Department for Education and NHS England, on 18 December 2018, an overall assessment of green/amber was made on the progress being made by the Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership, concurring with our own view. The report on progress is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.4 This review concluded that sufficient progress had been made in implementing the written statement of action and that the robust governance arrangements, alongside the presentation of a draft Improvement Plan, provide the necessary assurance that improvement is and will continue to be a priority for Lancashire.

2. Planning for improvement from 2019 to 2020

- 2.1 Work has continued to implement the Written Statement of Action; this action plan will now be replaced by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan, with those actions not yet completed or fully implemented carried forward as indicated in the final summary at Appendix B.
- 2.2 The draft Improvement Plan was considered by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board at their meeting on 28 January 2019; it is informed by consultation and discussion throughout 2018 and responds to the Ofsted inspection findings. The plan sets out the four priority areas for the partnership and key actions from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Strategy.
- 2.3 The draft plan is being considered across the partnership between 29 January and 22 February, following which a revised plan will be presented to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board for their consideration and approval at their next meeting on 1 April 2019.
- 2.4 Work to implement the draft plan has already been taking place, to ensure continued momentum, this has included:
 - ✓ Implementing an Audit Programme, to improve the quality of Education Health and Care plans, including training auditors and completing a pilot to test the approach
 - ✓ Undertaking Special Educational Needs and Disabilities reviews in schools
 - ✓ Increasing involvement and profile of Parent Carer Forum
 - ✓ Implementing Local Area Partnerships, to improve communication and access for parents
 - ✓ Holding area based informal sessions for parents to meet professionals
 - ✓ Implementing an electronic case management system
 - ✓ Publishing the draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 - ✓ Speech and Language service specification agreed and rolled out across Lancashire
- 2.5 The draft plan once agreed by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board at their meeting in May 2019, along with progress made.

3. Re- Inspection of the local area

- 3.1 It is expected that a re-visit to the Lancashire local area will take place within 18 months of the written statement of action being approved; this was received on 25 April 2018.
- 3.2 The purpose of the re-visit is to assess the progress made in addressing the areas of significant weakness detailed in the written statement of action. Any other serious weaknesses may also be identified.
- 3.3 Ofsted will notify the Director of Children’s Services 10 working days before the re-inspection takes place, with onsite activities lasting between 2 – 4 days. This will include contributions from professionals, parents, children and young people.
- 3.4 A formal letter, which will set out whether the Lancashire area has made sufficient progress, will be published on the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission websites, normally within 33 working days from the end of the re-visit.
- 3.5 Ahead of the Ofsted re-inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities services a review meeting in preparation will take place with the Department for Education/NHS England advisors in July 2019. A summary of progress against the initial Ofsted findings and recommendations will be provided.

List of background papers

Appendix A Update on progress for Department for Education/NHS England December 2018

Appendix B Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Written Statement of Action summary position

Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities February Partnership [Newsletter](#)