

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Monday, 13 May 2019

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) update
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:
Dr Sally Richardson, Head of Inclusion
sally.richardson@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress made in response to the outcomes of the joint local area SEND inspection in Lancashire since the previous updates to this committee in July 2018 and January 2019. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of the preparation for the re-inspection of the local area that is anticipated later this year.

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (i) Consider the SEND Improvement Plan attached, noting that this will continue to drive forward improvement over the next two years;
- (ii) Consider the first assessment of progress on the newly implemented plan.

Background and Advice

1. Background

1.1 The Lancashire local area SEND inspection was carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in November 2017. The purpose of this inspection was to see how well the local area was fulfilling their responsibilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The inspectors identified two fundamental failings and twelve areas for development.

1.2 Partners in Lancashire were required to produce a written statement of action, setting out the immediate priorities for action. Progress on the implementation of these actions has been monitored by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England. Formal review visits by the DfE and NHS England have now stopped and the written statement of action has been superseded by the SEND

Partnership Improvement Plan for the period April 2019 to December 2020 attached as Appendix 'A'.

1.3 The Lancashire SEND Partnership Board is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the SEND Improvement Plan and for reporting on progress bi-monthly to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Executive Director for Education and Children's Services and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chief Officer are the accountable officers for SEND and Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board respectively.

2. Planning for improvement from 2019 to 2020

2.1 The plan includes a description of the SEND Partnership governance arrangements and a brief summary of progress on the implementation of the written statement of action. It is set out in four priority areas. These are: meeting need; equal partners; accessible services and achieving success. Clear actions and sub-actions and key performance indicators are provided for each priority.

2.2 Each of the priority areas is led by a SEND Partnership Board member, as indicated in the plan, and progress is monitored monthly.

2.3 Work to implement the plan has already been taking place, to ensure continued delivery. The plan includes a progress assessment, using a red, amber, green rating, which has the addition of actions completed or not yet started. This was completed at the end of April 2019.

2.4 Actions that have been carried out since the last report to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee include:

- the development of local resource maps to signpost specialist support and advice;
- multi-agency workforce development, such as the implementation of training for health provider SEND Champions;
- the creation of a data dashboard to communicate shared performance measures to stakeholders;
- the development of systems to improve the quality of education, health and care plans, that includes feedback to and from partners, service users and auditors;
- the co-production of clear and transparent information about a graduated response to special needs and/or disabilities;
- a review of the approach to and operation of support and alternative provision in both the primary and secondary sectors;
- the creation of a cross-service transitions group to support the development of unified approach to transition;
- work with an external consultant to enhance leadership within the Inclusion Service, to improve service delivery and engagement with children, young people and families.

3. Re- Inspection of the local area

3.1 Preparation for the forthcoming inspection re-visit to the Lancashire local area has also been taking place; the visit will assess the progress made in addressing the areas of significant weakness detailed in the original report.

3.2 The SEND Partnership Board considered the necessary preparation for inspection at their meeting on 1 April 2019; the slides from the meeting are attached at Appendix 'B' for information.

3.3 A summary of progress against the initial Ofsted findings and recommendations has been prepared in draft and will be shared with the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board at the next meeting.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

N/A

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

NA