

# Written Statement of Action (WSOA)

## Summary of our progress

Update October 2019



In November 2017, Ofsted and CQC inspected the Lancashire local area and identified twelve areas of concern. This summary provides an update on progress achieved.<sup>1</sup>

### **1. Leaders from across the partnership are working together strategically to deliver a shared vision**

- Lancashire SEND Partnership was established in March 2018 and a new vision and strategy agreed.
- The SEND Partnership Board has representatives from all partners, including young people and parent carers.
- The Action Plan (WSOA) aims to secure improvement and ultimately realise the Partnership vision.
- The Board monitors progress on the plan and considers all aspects improvement.
- Accountable officers lead the Partnership and report progress to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- An Operational Group drives progress and reports to the Partnership Board.
- New posts have been created including a Director of Education and Skills and Designated Clinical Officers.

### **2. There is increasing understanding about the needs of the local area and the strengths and weaknesses in performance**

- A joint strategic need assessment (JSNA) has been published, alongside a data dashboard that provides information relating to education, health and care.
- The dashboard is updated regularly and will help inform decision making.
- Data and information is shared with and considered by the SEND Partnership Board.
- Performance data is being analysed to improve understanding and drive improvement.
- Providers are sharing good practice and contributing to improvement.

### **3. Joint commissioning arrangements have been reviewed and, informed by the JSNA, priorities agreed. Service redesign/commissioning has begun.**

- A joint strategy for commissioning is in place.
- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) services are being re-commissioned.
- A re-design of the emotional health and well-being service is taking place; this includes CAMHS to age 19 to support transition into adult services.
- All age services for learning disability and eating disorders are being commissioned.
- Special School Nursing service is being recommissioned jointly following a review.

### **4. Parent carers are part of the strategic governance and leadership arrangements. Parent Carer Forum members are active members of the partnership.**

- Co-production is taking place, with active participation by parent carers in improvement.
- The Parent Carer Forum (PCF) is established with the Chair representing families on the Partnership Board.
- The PCF is part of the Partnership leadership and operational arrangements.
- Local Area Partnership meetings take place, along with informal 'coffee and cake' events for parent carers.
- The POET survey informs the Board and commissioning managers about the views of almost 3,000 parent carers, young people and practitioners.
- A range of ways to communicate with parent carers has been developed.

### **5. Systems and processes of identification reviewed, to improve clarity and transparency. Service recommissioning will improve early identification and school readiness.**

- Over 100 partners have been involved in developing a graduated response document.
- A SEND toolkit has been developed and both will be available as part of the Local Offer.
- The neurodevelopmental pathway has been co-produced and is being implemented across Lancashire.
- Content for the Local offer has been developed with partners; this will be launched in October.
- Three Designated Clinical Officers provide as single point of access to health services.
- Primary Mental Health Workers deliver Youth Mental Health First Aid training.
- A new contract for Health Visiting will ensure needs are identified earlier.

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<sup>1</sup> 1/10/19

- 6. Improvements in the quality of plans is taking place and a quality framework agreed. There is a programme of individual service and multi-agency quality assurance, audit and training.**
  - A quality framework was agreed by the SEND Partnership Board to improve the quality of all existing plans.
  - The most vulnerable groups have been prioritised; followed by any child or young person making a transition.
  - EHC plan writers and contributors have a workforce development programme in place.
  - Health and social care advice for all new plans is being received.
  - A SEND Auditor was appointed in March 2019 to lead the multi-agency approach to auditing.
  - Health provider champions have been identified as a requirement of every contract and training on the quality of plans provided.
  
- 7. The diagnostic pathway for ASD re-established in the North. A high level pan-Lancashire Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Diagnostic pathway has been co-produced.**
  - A pathway is in place in the north and the 135 families on the waiting list seen by a professional.
  - High-level pan-Lancashire Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Diagnostic pathway has been designed and agreed with contributions from more than 100 professionals and 400 parent carers.
  - More than 90 professionals have been involved in reviewing the pathway to identify gaps for action prior to implementation.
  
- 8. Achieving success is one of four priorities in the Partnership Strategy; action to re-shape support and provision is taking place.**
  - A SEND Partnership Strategy is in place with a priority for children and young people to achieve success.
  - A new post of Director of Education commenced in August to drive this improvement.
  - Thirty SEND reviewers have been trained and a workforce development programme developed with schools.
  - Primary inclusion hubs are in place across all districts and recommendations from a review of alternative provision in the secondary sector are being implemented.
  - A strategic framework to progress the development of SEND support and provision was agreed in August 2019.
  
- 9. A number of services have been re-designed and commissioned to improve arrangements for transition in healthcare services.**
  - All age eating disorder service recommissioned and two all age service specifications developed for Learning Disabilities and Autism
  - Funding approved to extend CAMHS services to age of 19 ensuring continuity
  - Public health nursing contract has been recommissioned across Lancashire and includes school readiness.
  - Mental Health and Learning Disability Passports introduced and being rolled out.
  - A Preparing for Adulthood Strategy has been co-produced.
  
- 10. The number of young people permanently excluded from school has reduced. Processes in place to monitor the exclusion of children and young people with SEND.**
  - Schools and the local authority have reduced the number of permanent exclusions for pupils with EHC plans.
  - Prevention work with primary schools is taking place through the development of inclusion hubs
  - The recommendations following the external review of secondary support and provision are being implemented.
  - All short stay schools have a named Education Psychologist.
  - Governor conferences and briefings have focused on responsibilities for pupils with additional needs.
  
- 11. The use of data and information, including the JSNA, is increasingly ensuring the development of provision and services is based on local need.**
  - All related health care services in Lancashire have been reviewed and redefined for quality and consistency.
  - SEND Champions have been appointed and primary mental health workers are in place.
  - A dedicated data analyst for SEND is appointed within the clinical commissioning unit.
  - A range of services are being commissioned in the context of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
  
- 12. The Local Offer website has been reviewed and redesigned and is supported by a range of communication methods.**
  - Engagement with families identified the need for an improved design with clearer content.
  - External partner will host a directory of services to ensure Local Offer is easier to navigate.
  - Schools support the promotion of the website with parents when it launches in the autumn term.
  - A Parent Carer Website has been developed to provide parents with key information and a clear link to the Local Offer.