

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 28 January 2020

Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership – assessment of progress on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan and Accelerated Plans

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 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.

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. The Written Statement of Action has been updated and any ongoing actions included in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Improvement Plan for the period April 2019 to December 2020. The Health and Wellbeing Board received an update on progress at their last meeting in November.

Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- (i) Note the continued delay in the re-visit from Ofsted.
- (ii) Consider the report on progress to date in delivering the actions in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan and the Accelerated Plans.

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 and the updated version known as the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan.
- 1.2 Progress on these plans has been reported bi-monthly to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board using a red, amber, green rating. Completed actions and those not yet started are also recorded.
- 1.3 A re-visit by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission to assess whether the local area has made sufficient progress in securing improvement was expected to take place before the end of October 2019. At the time of writing this report there has been no notification of inspection; it is understood that this is due to a shortage of inspectors.

- 1.4 The self-assessment and associated paperwork required for this revisit continue to be updated with focus maintained on delivering the Improvement Plan.
- 1.5 All other arrangements are in place, including the draft presentation, named participants for discussion with inspectors, the draft timetable and data/evidence.

2. Progress Report

- 2.1 The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan and the Accelerated Plans are subject to bi-monthly review, for which detailed information is provided by action leads. The latest review took place in December 2019.
- 2.2 The Improvement Plan was approved by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board in March 2019 for the period April 2019 to December 2020; it includes action carried forward from the Written Statement of Action. The Plan has 27 action areas supported by 94 specific actions, each with a specified lead and clear deadline. The plan is organised under four key priorities aligned with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Strategy. The report provides a summary of progress and by exception highlights action where there is significant delay or risk of delay.
- 2.3 The status in relation to each action at the end of December 2019, is as follows:

Rating	Status	October Actions	December Actions	Total
Blue	Action completed and signed off	33	52	94
Green	Action will achieve completion deadline	17	14	
Amber	Action underway	32	20	
Red	Action delayed and at risk	5	5	
Grey	Action yet to commence	7	3	

- 2.4 There are five delayed actions. Of these, the improved Local Offer site was launched on 13 January 2020 and reporting to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board will commence in March 2020; the implementation of the revised Occupational Therapy Service Specification is not being implemented by all providers and is currently being negotiated and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Sufficiency Strategy will be considered by the Council's Cabinet in January.
- 2.5 As indicated in the last report to the Board, the risk of delay to a review of the access criteria for support from the Children with Disabilities Social Work team has been borne out, due to a lack of capacity, however this work has commenced.
- 2.6 All other actions are completed, on track or in train. Those with amber ratings include ongoing actions, such as increasing the skills base of staff, expanding the membership of the Parent Carer Forum and the representation of young people with special educational needs and disabilities in participation activities. Where the implementation of completed action is ongoing, such as the development of the Neuro Developmental Pathway there is also an Amber rating.

- 2.7 The Accelerated Plans provide greater detail than the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan about the work taking place in areas where there was concern about pace. They are being closely monitored by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Operational Group.
- 2.8 There are five plans in total; four are on track. These are focused on: improving the quality of Education Health and Care Plans; improving education outcomes; implementing the Neuro-developmental Pathway and the process of transition from Children's Social Care to Adult Services. The fifth plan to improve the accessibility of and information on the Local Offer has two delayed actions. This was reported to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board at their meeting on 16 January 2020. The soft launch of the new site took place on 10 October 2019 and the full launch, supported by promotion, on 13 January 2020. Phase two development, to include the implementation of a directory facility, have commenced and action taken to identify ongoing resources for the maintenance/development of the site. This plan will be on track when resources are agreed.

3. Conclusion

Since the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Improvement Plan to update the Written Statement of Action in April 2019, 52 actions have been completed with a further 14 scheduled to be completed by the deadline and 20 underway. This represents 91% of the actions, compared with 87% when last reported, across a large programme of improvement work. The remaining eight actions are either delayed/at risk or not yet started, with deadlines from April to December 2020 for the latter.

List of background papers

[Handbook](#) for the inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities - Part 3