

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 2 September 2020

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Joint Area SEND Revisit in Lancashire

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Sarah Callaghan, Director of Education and Skills

Executive Summary

Between 9 March and 12 March 2020, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) revisited the area of Lancashire to decide whether sufficient progress has been made in addressing each of the significant areas for improvement detailed in the written statement of action issued on 8 January 2018. This report provides members with details and the outcome of the revisit.

Recommendation

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee are requested to:

- i. Discuss and note the information provided.
- ii. Consider and advise officers of any areas in the report that should be particularly highlighted in the development of the Accelerated Progress Plan.

Background and Advice

The Lancashire local area SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) inspection was carried out by Ofsted and the CQC in November 2017. The purpose of this inspection was to see how well the local area was fulfilling its responsibilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The inspectors identified two fundamental failings and twelve significant areas for improvement.

Ofsted and CQC inspectors revisited Lancashire from the 9 to the 12 March 2020 to assess the progress of our work to improve SEND services for children and young people in the local area. The SEND Partnership team, colleagues and partners worked with inspectors for two weeks prior to the revisit and during the four days inspectors spent on site. Attached at Appendix 'A' is a copy of the inspection report.

The inspectors recognised our improvement and particularly that in seven of the twelve areas progress has been sufficient to mean that monitoring of these areas is no longer required.

Some of the important improvements that the inspectors found include:

- A commitment to put things right, including from elected members
- Provision for SEND is a priority for leaders
- Strong working relationships across the partnership
- Clear quality assurance systems in place
- Good practice being shared across the area
- Improved outcomes for children and young people

In the remaining five areas the good work that has taken place was recognised, with further action required to:

- Continue to improve the understanding of the local area
- Further develop and evaluate the commissioning arrangements
- Improve the effectiveness of the new neuro-developmental pathway
- Improve transition arrangements in 0 to 25 healthcare services
- Implement the changes to the Local Offer
- Strong working relationships across the partnership
- Clear quality assurance systems in place
- Good practice being shared across the area
- Improved outcomes for children and young people

Further work required to achieve our ambition that all services for children and young people in Lancashire are excellent includes:

- Continuing to improve our understanding of the local area
- Further developing and evaluating our commissioning arrangements
- Improving the effectiveness of the new neuro-developmental pathway
- Improving transition arrangements in 0 to 25 healthcare services
- Implementing the changes to the Local Offer

Next steps

The local area is now required to submit an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) to the Department for Education (DfE) SEND Intervention Unit and NHS

England/Improvement (E/I), setting out the action leaders will take over the next six to twelve months, the milestones to assess progress and the key performance measures to demonstrate impact. The APP uses a required format and must be submitted on 28 September 2020.

The draft of the plan will be with the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board on 8 September and the SEND Partnership Board will consider the draft APP on 21 September 2020. This is a partnership plan and colleagues in each of the clinical commissioning groups will be making a contribution to the success of the plan.

Progress on the APP will be reviewed by the DfE and NHS (E/I) after six months and twelve months; there will be no further Ofsted/CQC revisit inspections.

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The Accelerated Progress Plan will be closely monitored through the partnership governance arrangements to manage the risk of drift and delay. The governance arrangements have been audited by the council's internal audit service providing a good level of assurance.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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NA

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA