

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 6</b>
<b>9 NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Wendi Ogle Welbourn, Executive Director, People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres - Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Jonathan Lewis – Service Director (Education) Toni Bailey, Assistant Director (SEND & Inclusion)	Tel. 01223 507165

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ACTION (WSoA) - (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

RECOMENDATIONS	
<b>FROM:</b> Jonathan Lewis – Service Director (Education)	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>1. Commend the efforts to address all the Work-stream actions within the Written Statement of Action, especially within a challenging landscape caused by the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report has been written by the Assistant Director (SEND & Inclusion) at the request of the committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the latest position with regard to the LA’s response to the Written Statement of Action (WSoA) following the SEND Area Inspection conducted by Ofsted and Health authorities.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council :

Education, including

- a) University and higher education;
- b) Youth service;
- c) Careers; and
- d) Special needs and inclusion.

2.3 This report links to –

- Corporate priority:
  - Improve educational attainment and skills

- To drive growth, regeneration and economic development
- Children in Care Pledge: Support children in care to have a good education.

### 3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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### 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

The Written Statement of Action (WSOA) has been impacted by the change in priorities required in order to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, progress has been made in all 5 work streams with lead sponsors and delivery partners all maintaining focus on individual elements and ensuring that strategic and practical actions have been supported. There has been an impact on timescales due to the shift in priorities, but these have been recorded and shared with DfE and NHS partners during the recent monitoring visit (29<sup>th</sup> September 2020). The feedback from the monitoring visit was extremely positive, recognising the positive progress made, especially during a very challenging period. The monitoring visit did outline some further areas of development with regard to the need to demonstrate the impact of our actions for young people and families. It was, however, appreciated that the strategic design of actions would take time to show impact, nevertheless, impact measures will be required to be in place in time for the next inspection visit. The following paragraphs outline the progress made in each of the five work-streams of the WSoA.

#### 4.1 Work-stream 1 : Joint Planning and Commissioning including intervention

Senior accountable sponsor : Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

The Joint SEND commissioning Strategy is now fully implemented and includes the full participation of parent carer forms particularly around disabled children and children in care. Baseline data has been collated in order to ensure that commissioning and decommissioning of services are completed utilising an informed and shared position.

An outcomes frame work is being developed, in support of the Joint commissioning strategy, to demonstrate how commissioned services are performing in direct relation to outcomes for children, young people and families.

- 4.1.1 A Joint Children’s Health and Commissioning Board (JCHCB) has been established to act on identified commissioning priorities, This JCHCB will report directly to the SEND Executive Board and provide reports to the SEND partnership Groups to ensure on-going engagement in all identified priorities. Reports will also include a newly developed Quality Performance Dashboard.
- 4.1.2 The whole continence contract was reviewed and agreement reached to provide products in Feb/ March 2020. However, due to COVID -19 emergency response plans this has subsequently been cancelled. Continence products pathway has been added to local offer to support in the immediate term and a meeting to re-engage contract arranged for Oct 2020.
- 4.1.3 Specifications have been drafted for the Balanced Model© and these have been reviewed by Provider Service leads. There has been a noted deficit in capacity within the CCG which has hindered progress, however this was remedied through additional capacity in July 2020 and progress will be tracked through the JCHCB operational group.
- 4.1.4 The soft and hard launch of the Joint SEND Strategy has been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans are now in place to ensure that sign up to the Joint SEND strategy is recorded and the inclusion of a SEND Communications officer has helped to focus this action and ensure that the impact of the Joint SEND strategy can be measured. In order to ensure we can share the impact of the Joint SEND strategy with young people 16-25 the communications officer and SEND team are working with Champions from PRC in order to create comms and collate views.
- 4.1.5 The local offer is being regularly updated and changes/ updates are recorded on a website tracker and log, which is reported to the SEND partnership group through a ‘Local Offer website

maintenance' document. The local offer tracker also records updates from Health led by partners in the CCG and CPFT.

Work on the mental health tracker was in development, but has been postponed due to COVID-19

#### 4.2 Work-stream 2 : SEND Quality Assurance

Senior accountable sponsors : Toni Bailey & Alison Bennett

A QA officer with single focus of SEND has been successfully appointed and has been in post since January 2020. This is a joint post across both PCC and CCC. A quality assurance framework for SEND has been written and is now being implemented. This framework incorporates existing QA arrangements as well as a four level mechanism for auditing EHCP effectiveness across all agencies. There is still a need to fully develop a mechanism to test the satisfaction of young people with regard to EHCPs, and this work is now in progress.

- 4.2.1 Significant progress has been achieved with regard to the backlog of Annual reviews during the summer period. This was due, in the main, to the effective redeployment of staff into the SAMs team to help with a focussed piece of work. There is an on-going Annual review recovery plan which has enabled all historical ARs to be completed. New posts have been added to the team to ensure sufficient capacity is maintained to focus on the timeliness and quality of EHCPs.
- 4.2.2 The new QA officer role is working to co-ordinate feedback arrangements including parental feedback, which will enable SEND services to develop new ways of engaging with families in receipt of new EHCP's. This was due to be completed in Sept 2020, but impact needs to be collated.
- 4.2.3 A new data management system has been installed for the SEND services team. There has been some difficulties in the migration of data, which has delayed the impact expected from the new system.
- 4.2.4 The rolling programme of training was delayed due to COVID-19. However, the programme is now being delivered across all agencies utilising remote / virtual platforms and the programme has 8 termly sessions planned throughout the year.
- 4.2.5 Guidance for the use of Part time timetables was published in 2019 and is undergoing a review in the light of the challenges posed by the recovery position in all schools. The new inclusion team is leading on the review, monitoring and support of part-time timetables. This will include the development of a system accurately record the numbers and occasions of all part-time timetables and this, in turn, will be monitored by the newly established SEND partnership Group.

#### 4.3 Work-stream 3 : Role and Arrangements for the DCO

Senior accountable sponsor : Marek Zamborski

The COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in the necessary pausing of significant elements of this work-stream. However, reports from the SEND DCO to the JCHCB has resumed from September 2020.

There has been a number of successful recruitment posts secured over the summer period. These posts represent a significant increase in the commissioning team and will create additional capacity for the SEND DCO to fulfil their role sufficiently.

- 4.3.1 Health provider and Lead Nurse now regularly attend SENCo Network meetings promoting opportunities for shared learning and information exchange. This has been especially worthwhile during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.3.2 Baseline established from questionnaires completed by young people at first series of Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) events, however, an event intended for May 2020 was not able to go ahead due to COVID-19  
PfA health group also paused, however, these meetings due to be reconvened from September 2020.

4.4 Work-stream 4 : Getting Support Early  
Senior accountable sponsor : Raj Lakshman

Targeted training has been provided utilising a virtual offer. Practitioner Childminder and SENCO Forums have been delivered as well as child wellbeing, supporting vulnerable families and safeguarding. Engagement in the virtual offer has been good and an on line evaluation form has been recently developed to help gather evidence of impact.

- 4.4.1 DWP lists are now being received and all parents on the list have been written to. There was a high number of applications when this was reintroduced, but applications are now being received more steadily.
- 4.4.2 Messages for parents on activities at home both generic and for children with SEN have been shared regularly in the weekly newsletter to settings to share with their parents and the two Facebook pages.
- 4.4.3 Public Health update - Healthy child programme – ‘text us’ service for parents has been set up. There is a function to allow information to be sent out. A lot of work has been done on standard messages. All the work above is ongoing. In addition, some face-to-face contacts (initial visit) at Children’s Centres have started with a focus on a blended offer.
- 4.4.4 Implementation of the Best Start in Life (BSiL) pilot initiative has been restarted. 1 Pilot has been started in Peterborough North West and another site for a possible Pilot has been identified – Central & Thistlemoore, but this is yet to begin.
- 4.4.5 First meeting of Early Help Reporting Group held in August 2020.  
A report is now being developed, enabling analysis of cases open to Early Help with identified SEN, disability and EHCP at point of Early Help Assessment.
- 4.4.6 Waiting lists and time scales for access to health service and assessments are longer due to the COVID-19. This is due to a pausing of non-urgent functions and the need to employ safe working practices to undertake assessments e.g. PPE.  
ASD and ADHD assessment have restarted, some of which are face to face and some of which are virtual. This may lead to difficulties in providing a definitive diagnosis, but parents are being advised of this from the beginning of the assessment. Waiting times for secondary aged ASD and ADHD have increased due to the pausing of assessments in response to COVID-19, however, these have now been recommenced.  
Waiting times for access to mental health assessments are currently being offered within timeframes.
- 4.4.7 The local Transformation Plan has been fully updated and the CCG are looking at different ways to engage focus groups with young people in order to capture how best to share this information.

4.5 Work-stream 5 : Provision and Opportunities for young adults aged 18-25  
Senior accountable sponsor : Debbie McQuade

The Peterborough SEND partnership Group has been re-established and has a clear governance structure.

- 4.5.1 The Joint SEND strategy is fully launched and has been included in the local offer.  
The local offer continues to be updated with new information e.g. development of technology information. However, information regarding transition arrangements remains inconsistent. This has been prioritised for the new SEND/ TCP Commissioning Support Manager to complete.  
Surveys developed by Family Voice have effectively gathered evidence of views and knowledge regarding SEND services. Feedback shows that young people understand what is currently on the local offer.

- 4.5.2 Joint Agency Preparing of Adulthood (PfA) meetings have been held regularly and further meetings are planned throughout the year. Updated specifications will include transitions / PfA arrangements for children and young people with SEND throughout 2020/21
- 4.5.3 The Curriculum Group are reviewing and reflecting on increased activities for young adults with EHCP's. The post 16 curriculum was completed in April 2020 and has been implemented from September.
- 5. CONSULTATION**
- 5.1 Consultation with regard to the WSOA has been split into individual work-streams. The recent revision of the SEND partnership Group is also providing a multi-agency oversight on the progress of the WSoA. Reports are also monitored by the Joint SEND Executive Board
- 6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**
- 6.1 The actions outlined above will provide better outcomes for children, young people, families and parent carers. The advice provided by the DfE and Health colleagues to focus on direct impact for these groups has been assimilated in to the focus areas for the SEND partnership Groups and is supported by the lead sponsors for the individual work-streams.
- 7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**
- 7.1 The position around Education remains fluid. We are receiving daily updates from the Department for Education and we continue to monitor closely the public health position. Some of the consequences around Covid are not yet known and it will be important the committee continues to monitor the situation and challenge and support officers in their ongoing response.
- 8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**
- 8.1 The report outlines our response to actions outlined in the Written Statement of Action.
- 9. IMPLICATIONS**
- Financial Implications**
- 9.1 Some areas of the Written Statement of Action will require funding, but these are being monitored and assessed on an individual basis.
- Legal Implications**
- 9.2 None
- Equalities Implications**
- 9.3 None directly but we have provided advice and support to schools on developing an equality impact assessment on reopening to ensure all groups are considered in this process.
- Rural Implications**
- 9.4 The impact of actions from the Written Statement of Action will have equal effect across the LA.
- Carbon Impact Assessment**
- 9.5 There have been no direct impacts in this area but we have worked with the Transport and Environment Teams to review travel and access to schools including the 'School Street' Initiative (i.e. car-free zones outside school).

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Documents we have prepared for schools can be found here –  
<https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/recovery-plan>

**11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Written Statement of Action September 2020 Update