

Appendix 1 - Peterborough Written Statement of Action Progress October 2021

Peterborough was inspected by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) from 10 to 14 June 2019 to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The lead Inspector determined that Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group were required to jointly submit a Written Statement of Action (WSOA), because of weakness in the local area's practice.

Significant Weaknesses:

“Joint planning, including commissioning, and intervention are not sufficiently well established to make sure that all agencies and services play an active role in meeting the requirements of 2014 disability and special educational needs reforms.”

Local Authority and Health commissioners, in partnership with our parent carer forum and providers have developed a robust commissioning strategy and plan. This has provided a greater understanding across the SEND partnership of needs now and in the future, in Peterborough, and gaps in service provision to meet these. We have singly and jointly commissioned services to address gaps in provision.

Key differences since the inspection:

- There is a dedicated SEND Commissioning function across the Local Authority and CCG, with joint planning, commissioning and governance arrangements
- Commissioning resources and infrastructures are in place to identify and respond to any identified gaps in services and provide a cycle of continuous review and development. This includes routine 'Planning Together' meetings with Family Voice
- A Joint Commissioning Sufficiency Strategy has been developed with the support Family Voice, which outlines current need and market position, services needed to meet future demand and ensure positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
- Leaders and managers have access to specific data sets that ensures that all relevant data is drawn into a multi - agency commissioning cycle. This enables senior leaders to have a clear understanding of how the needs of children and young people with SEND are being met.
- Co-production is embedded throughout all levels of the SEND system offer, including people with lived experience and staff/providers who work directly with families. [Children's Commissioning - How We Work](#)
- Additional funding and support has been invested to close gaps in services such as Community Children Nursing, Specialist Equipment and Occupational Therapy services with dedicated commissioning capacity.
- There is now a Joint SEND Strategy for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire which has been shared with all stakeholders, with 65,000 social media impressions and generated 260 clicks on the strategy pages.
- A Joint SEND action plan has been created and a phased approach has been utilised to ensure the document is focussed and remains flexible to meet the specific priorities identified through continued co-production with all stakeholders and partners.

- The Joint SEND Executive Board continues to be independently chaired and is supported by the Joint SEND Strategic Partnership Group, chaired by the Executive Director of People & Communities. The Strategic Partnership Group is the local partnership that brings together organisations and parent carer forums responsible for services and support for children, young people and families in a shared commitment to achieving our vision.
- There is a Joint SEND Pledge that outlines the principles of our approach to support all aspects of SEND needs and has been signed up to by over 330 providers to date.
- There is now a co-produced SEND Communications Strategy monitored and actioned by the SEND Comms Group and held accountable to the Joint SEND Partnership Board.
- Parents are informed and their views valued by an on-going cycle of Topics of Importance.

“There is no quality assurance framework for the local area’s work for children and young people with SEND. Intended outcomes for children and young adults are not targeted, measured or evaluated well enough to inform leaders about the impact of the work to implement the reforms effectively.”

We recruited a dedicated quality assurance officer and we have developed a robust quality assurance framework that has supported auditing of SEND processes and practice at many levels. This has resulted in improvements in the quality and timeliness of services. Out of City Placements are quality assured by commissioning and SEND officers, this has resulted in us understanding better the lived experience of children in these placements and enabled improvements in service delivery developed from identification of areas of concern. We have also introduced robust processes for recording and monitoring of reduced timetables, which has resulted in an increase in the number of children accessing full time education offers.

Key differences since the inspection:

- There is now a Quality Assurance Framework for EHCP’s that has been co-produced across all agencies and is impacting on quality and raising awareness of focus points to ensure reforms are implemented effectively
- There is a dedicated full time QA officer for EHCP in place – providing capacity to undertake audits, report findings and structure action plans to impact and promote improvements in EHCP’s
- Leaders and partners are now fully informed of action plans and updates through robust reporting mechanisms to the Peterborough SEND partnership group (Operational partners including parent and young person voice) and through the Joint SEND Strategic Partnership Board.
- A Risk Provider Tool is now in place to ensure that ‘out of county’ placements are assessment for both quality and financial risk. The views of all partners including parent carers and young people are included as part of this tool and this has led to greater awareness and assurance that children and young people have access to high quality sustainable provision
- An Annual Review recovery plan has enabled the significant reduction of backlog issues. This Plan has been formulated and implemented by a multi–agency group maintaining awareness of key issues with all partners
- There is now a new data management system in place (SYNERGY) which has helped to increase efficiency and support better outcomes within the SAMs team with monthly output for EHCNA regularly at 100%

“The current arrangements for the DCO in relation to the implementation of the reforms do not allow the postholder to fulfil the obligations of the role sufficiently.”

Significant investment has been made by the Clinical Commissioning Group to support the DCO role, this has enabled her to provide strategic oversight and develop systems, processes and practices that support children, young people and their families and improve their experiences of health care.

Key differences since the inspection:

- The increase in the resource of the CCG’s Children’s Commissioning team has facilitated a clear focus on SEND as everyone’s business within children’s and young peoples’ commissioning.
- Co-produced commissioning and delivery at pace in children’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing services.
- Good engagement, participation, and impact from across children’s health services in the SEND Health Advisory and SEND Health PfA Groups which has led to improvements in the health information and advice being provided for EHCP initial requests and Annual Reviews.
- Increase in knowledge about, and importance of, the Learning Disability Annual Health Checks among children and young people, their carers, and the people who are paid to support them.

“Early support is well embedded for children in early years but does not follow through in all areas of the lives of children and young people as they get older. It takes too long for children, young people and families to get the support they need”.

Early support has been extended through to Reception and our Early Help services have developed systems and services that specifically support children, young people and families with SEND. A greater range of services that support parenting, mental and physical health; this has been particularly valued by families during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Key differences since the inspection:

- Workforce: high percentage of settings-based SENCOs with formal qualification to better support children young people with SEND and complex needs
- Local offer – Professionals are now taking responsibility and maintaining the information of the Local Offer to ensure is up to date and accurate. Family Voice are included in discussions to ensure information continues to be accessible for children and families.
- Early Support pathway has been extended to end of reception – we are seeing reduced numbers of new referrals from children in reception indicating children are picked up earlier. The principles embedded in early years settings are now operating successfully in schools.
- Established Early Help Dashboard which allows easy identification of children and young people with SEND.
- 2 year development programme to coproduce and launch an Early Help Strategy – Strong Families, Strong Communities, which demonstrated how the system collectively worked together to ensure the system meets the needs of children, young people and families.

- The Multi Agency Support Panel (MASG) has been revitalised to enhance multi agency membership to include CAMHS, neurodevelopment and emotional health and wellbeing service representatives to ensure the needs of children and young people with SEND are closely monitored and their needs are identified early and appropriate support is in place.
- All-Age Autism Strategy for people with autism in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire has been co-produced with parent carers, and people with lived experience of autism as well as all local partners and a public consultation is currently underway.

“The effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in particular the provision for young people aged 18 to 25 was not sufficiently developed to make sure that young adults had the full range of opportunities and support that they needed as they moved through into adulthood.”

Health, employment, community and independent living have been our focus in developing an improved offer for young adults with SEND, we have worked with young people and our parent carer forum to improve the offer to young people and advice, information and guidance.

Key differences since the inspection:

- Young people who need it can now benefit from a ‘blended’ 5-day offer, which is supported by a much clearer post-16 education offer.
- Young people now have support from 3 new transitions officers in the SEND teams enhancing the capacity to deliver person centred planning. They can also benefit from transitions officers established in colleges and special schools with post-16 provision.
- Young people and parents have far more opportunities to influence the development of post-16 provision and the information on the local offer e.g. the engagement and access champions.
- Young people and parents can now access much better information on post 16 provision and opportunities across education, health and social care on the LO website that has been developed working with them.
- Young people and parents can now talk to representatives from health and social care about transitions at special school transitions evenings.
- Young people and parents requiring acute services now benefit from the support provided by a Pediatric Transitions Coordinator (specialist pediatric nurse).
- Young people with a learning disability/autism at risk of admission to Tier 4 hospital admission now benefit from a network of key workers who use person centred approaches to help them remain in the community.