

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 6</b>
<b>14 JULY 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Jonathan Lewis, Service Director Education	
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)	Tel. 01223 507165

**UPDATE ON LASEND ACCELERATED PROGRESS PLAN SUBMISSION**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the report, comment on the elements of the report and request any further information on the areas outlined for future committee reports.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report has been written by the Service Director (Education) at the request of the committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report provides an update on activity associated to the Ofsted LASEND inspection in June 2019 and revisit in January 2022.

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

4.1 Between 10th June 2019 and 14th June 2019 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), conducted a SEND inspection of Peterborough local area to judge the effectiveness of the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms in the Children and Families Act 2014 and to review the area's provision for children and young people with SEND.

Following the Joint Area SEND Inspection of Peterborough, inspectors identified five areas of significant weakness:

1. *“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.”*
2. *“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.”*
3. *“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.”*
4. *“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”.*
5. *“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.”*

4.2 As a result of the inspection, Ofsted determined that a written statement of action (WSoA) was required to address these five significant areas of weakness. They determined that the Local Authority and the area's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were jointly responsible for submitting the written statement to Ofsted. This was declared fit for purpose on 28 November 2019.

4.3 A period of monitoring visits was undertaken with the Department of Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE) to monitor the progress of the actions highlighted in the WSoA and provided appropriate challenge and support to bring about the necessary improvements identified by the inspection.

4.4 Feedback from the DfE and NHSE on the monitoring visits was positive with the recurring theme being the system needed to gather evidence of the impact of actions on positive outcomes for children, young people and families. The system also undertook a number of 'deep dives' with the DfE/NHSE for each of the significant weakness areas to help us identify how we could capture the impact effectively and in a robust fashion, so that during the revisit we could effectively communicate how the situation has changed in respect to the areas of development.

4.5 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission returned to conduct a revisit 24-26 January 2022. The purpose of the re-visit was to determine whether the local area had made sufficient progress in

addressing the areas of significant weakness detailed in the Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

Inspectors explored:

- Leaders understanding of the impact of the pandemic on CYP with SEND and on the local SEND system more widely.
- How leaders have used their understanding to adapt their plans to address the areas of significant weakness detailed in the WSoA.
- The experience and needs of CYP with SEND, and their families, during the pandemic.
- How the local area has involved CYP with SEND and their families in co-producing decisions about how best to support them.
- How the local area has worked collaboratively to prioritise, adapt and provide the services and support that CYP with SEND and their families need.

4.6 The full report can be found in Appendix 1. Inspectors determined the area has made sufficient progress in addressing four of the five significant weaknesses identified at the initial inspection.

4.7 The Inspectors identified several achievements/strengths during the revisit:

- Leaders in both PCC and the CCG have shown great commitment to ensure joint working and planning. Structures and systems have been established that provide stronger governance and oversight of most aspects of the local area's work.
- The joint SEND strategy and SEND pledge have established common priorities and expectations for all partners in how they work together
- The recently launched all age autism strategy is an example of carefully considered joint planning involving parents and carers, children and young people with SEND, a wide range of stakeholders and partners
- There has been significant improvement in the local area's arrangements for joint commissioning.
- Leaders have established a joint quality assurance framework for SEND and have created more robust quality assurance processes to review new education, health and care plans (EHC plans).
- There has been a significant improvement in completing annual reviews of EHC plans for those children and young people who are in Year 2, Year 6 and Year 11 and about to move to the next stage of their education
- The SENCo network, SEND hubs and peer reviews are viewed positively by education leaders for the support and training they provide to leaders in schools
- Leaders seek the views of children and young people and parents and carers to evaluate the quality of services and provision
- The CCG's focus on the role of the Designated Clinical Officer and new structures to support the role are ensuring that the local area team has the capacity to be responsive in developing services for children and young people with SEND at pace
- The DCO has created more opportunities for health services and professionals to be involved in SEND partnerships and has ensured that health services have maintained a focus on outcomes and services for children and young people with SEND
- Area leaders have acted to increase access to a range of support services to ensure that children and young people with SEND and their families can access support when they need it.
- Leaders have expanded the range of parenting programmes available for the parents and carers of children and young people with SEND.
- The YOUnited service provides emotional well-being and mental health support for children and young people up to the age of 25

- Mental health support teams are being rolled out across schools in Peterborough. An increasing number of children and young people are benefiting from the support that these teams provide.
- The early support offer, which was recognised as a strength in the area SEND inspection in 2019, has been extended so that children and families can access this until the end of the Reception Year.
- Area leaders have done much work to promote the opportunities to prepare young people with SEND for adulthood through the local offer website.
- A five-day education offer for young people with SEND aged 16 and over has been established providing access to an increasing variety and range of educational courses and activities that support preparation for adulthood.
- A learning disability and autism key worker network has been established to support young people with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorder aged up to 25.
- A paediatric transitions coordinator supports children and young people with long-term health conditions and/or complex disabilities with their transition to adult health services and to navigate through the adult services system

#### 4.8 **Areas for further development:**

- Some children and young people aged 16 to 18 years old with autistic spectrum disorder who also have other conditions do not receive equal care when they transition to adult health services.
- Though the number of annual reviews completed within statutory timescales is much improved, too many still do not take place when they should.
- Develop a one-stop shop performance document to review overarching impact on the outcomes for children and young people, in particular, the work of the local area in reviewing the outcomes for young people aged 18 to 25.
- Leaders cannot demonstrate the wider positive impact of what has been done through an improvement in outcomes for young people with SEND aged 18 and over.
- Frontline health professionals and some parents still believe a cliff edge exists for some provision for 18- to 25-year-olds.

4.9 As a result of this feedback and areas for development, the following significant weakness was deemed to not have made sufficient progress:

*The provision for young people aged 18 to 25 is not sufficiently developed to make sure that young people have the full range of opportunities and support that they need as they move through into adulthood.*

4.11 In accordance with the LASEND inspection framework, the Local Area are required to submit an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) to the Department of Education (DFE), NHS England and Department of Health and Social Care demonstrating how they will drive improvement and monitor progress and impact of the remaining area of significant weakness. This must be co-produced with partners and state how partners, including families, will be kept fully aware and informed of progress.

4.11 Officers and partners developed a draft APP and presented to the Department for Education and NHSE England on 24 May 2022 for feedback on the content. It was determined during this meeting further detail was required to the milestones and key performance indicators / quantifiable impact measures to assist the DfE to judge our progress, success and impact. The Local Area was required to submit the final APP by 17 June 2022. A copy of the final plan is included as Appendix 2.

The timescale for approval is not known at this point. Once the APP has been approved, the

Local Area are required to publish the plan so that children, young people and families can understand the actions we are taking.

- 4.12 The key actions from the APP can be summarised as follows –
- Develop a Post-16 strategic plan with comprehensive provision for academic and non-academic activities (non-college based)
  - Enhance awareness/promotion on how to access the autism diagnostic pathway with parent, carers and young people
  - Extend the Post 16 Review, carried out in 2021, to provide an increased focus on parent / carer and young people engagement in person centred planning and appropriate placement decision making
  - Develop a programme of work to widen the reach of co-production and engagement, including the voice of seldom heard groups, and ensuring improved opportunities for young people to share their views on existing and future provision
  - Develop a shared resource for the Disability Social Care 0 – 25 service workforce to ensure they have the practical resources, templates, training and technology they need to communicate and engage effectively with children and young people
  - Work with the Local Parent Carer Forum and Networks to broaden the reach / membership and create a targeted survey for parents, carers and young people to share their views on how to further develop opportunities for education, employment and alternative community provision including improving health outcomes to better meet the needs of young people as they transition into adult services (18 to 25).
  - Provision of a local forum for young people that includes all SEND including young people who are electively home educated.
  - Review and update information on the Disability Social Care 0-25 Service and range of support, living, social and leisure options available in Peterborough on the Local Offer
  - Develop and implement a Local Offer awareness raising / sharing plan to include a range of activities and resources to suit different purposes and audiences and which is circulated to all post-16 provision.
  - The Preparation for Adulthood Health steering group will co-produce a PfA Health Shared Purpose, act as the driver of decisions and actions towards the goal that young people will experience better transitions between children's and adult healthcare services, co-create a dynamic action plan (DAP) which prioritises improving earlier engagement with primary care for children, implement and evaluate the transition pathway improvements using measurement for improvement prepare, collect, analyse and review cycles and adapt systemwide transitions principles based on learning from the 2 areas of focus followed by identification of other areas of transitions need
  - Develop and mobilise a sustainable learning and development schedule to facilitate spread and adoption of improvements in healthcare transitions
  - Increase the number of young people attending their learning disability annual health checks and the quality of that experience
- 4.13 The actions will be jointly owned by PCC (Education and Social Care) and the CCG as outlined in the full APP (Appendix 2).

### **Next Steps**

- 4.13 Once the APP has been approved, there will be a period of monitoring. The first monitoring meeting will take place 6 months after the APP has been approved. There is no standard timescale for the length of time an APP will be monitored although we are aiming for all actions to be completed within a 12-month period.
- 4.14 In order for monitoring of an APP to cease, DfE officials will need to make a recommendation to the Minister that the area has made sufficient progress and provided evidence of sustainable progress. It is our intention to bring updates to future committee meetings.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The APP was developed in consultation with the Chief Executive's Corporate Leadership Team, the Peterborough SEND Partnership Group and a small group of parents and carers.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 The Local Area anticipates the DfE and NHSE will approve the final version of the APP by the end of July 2022.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 There is a requirement for the APP to be shared publicly and the Scrutiny Committee allows a debate of the actions proposed. We value the scrutiny committee's ongoing monitoring and oversight of this report and the APP to continue to ensure we deliver good outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 Not applicable as the Local Area is required to submit an Accelerated Progress Plan. If the action plan is rejected by the DfE, we will be required to re-submit.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 The actions outlined will be found within existing budgets. SEND is funded via a number of different sources including the Dedicated Schools Grant and the council's general fund budgets.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 None

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 None

### **Rural Implications**

- 9.4 None

### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

- 9.5 There has been no direct impact as a result of this report. Individual projects which may have an environmental impact will be considered through their normal governance arrangements.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 10.1 The full LASEND Inspection report from June 2019 can be [found here](#).

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Peterborough LASEND Revisit Report – January 2022  
Appendix 2 – Accelerated Progress Plan – June 2022