

CUMBRIA HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
Meeting date: 7 February 2020
From: Linda Clegg, Independent Chair, Cumbria SEND Improvement Board

SEND IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Delivery is underway against all the priority areas resulting from the SEND inspection in 2019. The first formal monitoring visit from the DfE and NHS England will be taking place on 6 February 2020 which will provide a barometer of our progress.*
- 1.2 *A dedicated SEND project manager starts in post on the 20 February. This is a two year secondment from the North Cumbria CCG to CCC and the individual will report to the Senior Manager Partnerships and People Improvement. It is anticipated this role will provide enhanced co-ordination of this complex and challenging programme of improvement activity.*
- 1.3 *Key activity over the last quarter has related to engagement with parents and carers with significant numbers responding to the recent SEND survey, and a series of engagement and listening taking place across the county during January 2020. The indicative survey findings suggest regaining trust of parents and carers remains a major area of priority.*
- 1.4 *Key risks highlighted to the Board remain relating to capacity to deliver the pace of delivery required within the timescales as well as the regaining of trust and faith of parents and carers. Mitigating actions are in place but the risks remain important to retain oversight of.*

2.0 LINKS TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

- 2.1 Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to improve the quality of services, a person's experience of the system and also to reduce inequalities. CQC/OFSTED SEND local area inspection identified areas of improvement relating to these issues which the SEND Improvement Programme through the actions set out in our WSOA will address.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 *That the Board note the updates from the working groups. Please note these may be subject to amendment following the SEND Improvement Board on 21 January prior to submission to the DfE.*
- 3.2 *That the Board note the continuing analysis underway of the SEND parent/carer, professional and young people's surveys and consider if a full presentation of all the findings at the next Board would be helpful. Please note if the results are ready in time a presentation of the headline findings will be delivered at the Board meeting 7 February.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Our SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA) was approved by Ofsted on the 18 October and are now in the delivery phase with the six working groups meeting regularly to drive progress against the actions for which they are responsible.
- 4.2 The SEND Improvement Board continues to monitor progress against the WSOA and receives regular written and verbal progress updates from each working group, as well as a full BRAG of the WSOA prior to each quarterly DfE progress evaluation meeting. These are attached at Appendix 1

5.0 WORKING GROUP PROGRESS UPDATES

5.1 Working Group 1- Understanding of Local Need

The first SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has been published and work is now underway to continually refresh its content, raise awareness of its existence and increase the use of this by leaders and commissioners across the SEND system. A work stream to progress the JSNA activity has been established, led by Population Health and Children's System Senior Manager, Morecambe Bay CCG. A draft SEND Performance Management and Quality Assurance Framework (PMQAF) has been developed and a work stream has been established to finalise and implement this led by the AD Integration and Partnerships, CCC. The group considered at each working group with the Improvement Board having oversight of the performance; which is contributing to a greater understanding of the lived experience of children and young people in Cumbria. There is slippage relating to the revision of the Education Health and Care Plan audit tool and grading guidance. This risk is being highlighted to the Board and remedial action has already been put in place.

5.2 Working Group 2 – Commissioning and Access to Provision

Progress is underway regarding the development of the SEND Joint Commissioning Framework and defining commissioning intentions using the SEND JSNA evidence. The SEND parent/carer engagement events in January 2020 are being used to further develop this work. A new SEND Commissioning Manager is now in post within the County Council, which will bring capacity to this area of work. Work has been initiated to ensure that regular evaluation and review of the commissioning intentions is built into the framework.

Other significant areas where progress is being made include: developing materials to improve knowledge and awareness across Integrated Care Communities (ICCs) in relation to the needs of the SEND population, enhancing existing arrangements for psychological support for children and young people receiving palliative care, improving the range of options available for short breaks, new arrangements for monitoring the 0–10 Healthy Child Programme, the development of ASD Diagnostic Pathways and standardized approaches to packages of care. The group have highlighted a risk of slippage in the development of additional Alternative Provision places due to delay in capital projects approval process.

5.3 Working Group 3 – Engagement and Co-production

The group are making good progress against the actions identified in the WSOA. Of note are the successful establishment of the SEND parent/carer reference group and parental involvement on all the working groups and the Improvement Board. Work relating to the ongoing engagement strategy continues, and will be informed by the January programme of SEND parent/carer engagement events.

The recent survey of all parents and carers who have a child or young person with an EHCP or classified as SEN Support has recently closed and the data is currently being analysed. A total of 946 parents/carers responded which is really encouraging. The survey for young people received 328 responses. A survey of professionals has recently been initiated and is still 'open' for responses. This is the first wide scale detailed survey of the SEND community and is critical to our understanding of the lived experience of people in Cumbria. The findings will be used to support our improvement activity and will enable a baseline against which our improvement trajectory can be assessed. The initial analysis from the SEN Support survey indicates that trust remains a fundamental issue for parents and carers, with many expressing a lack of confidence in statutory services. Preparation for adulthood is a key area where parents feel they don't have enough information, and many parents don't feel well informed about the services available to them. Initial analysis of comments from professionals indicates a concern about levels of demand and the level of resources available to meet this.

5.4 Working Group 4 - Preparation for Adulthood.

A draft Preparation for Adulthood roadmap is being prepared for engagement with the parent/carer reference group in February 2020 ahead of roll out and wider training. The dates for the next Transition Fairs are booked and planning is underway to enhance these based on feedback from the Fair last year. All actions relating to the development of Post 19 provision and work experience pathways are on track apart from the development of a marketing and communications plan which is dependent upon recommissioning timescales. The development of a Standardised Operating Procedure (SOP) for working with young people as they approach transition to adulthood has been completed and training to roll this out is

scheduled across the system. A quarterly audit process to support the new operating procedure is being developed. The National Development Trust for Inclusion (NDTI) will deliver training across Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs), parents and other key stakeholders at the end of January.

5.5 Working Group 5 - Emotional Health and Wellbeing

A review of Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has confirmed that there is a need to support health professionals to describe needs more effectively and provide clear information on how health provision will address those needs. The NHS Designated Clinical Officer is working with relevant teams to devise appropriate support mechanisms to address this. Auditing of CAMHS services against NICE guidance is underway but the milestone relating to tier 2 and 3 services is likely to be missed.

Other actions relating to services being appropriately designed and accessible are on track and the newly recommissioned 0-19 services will include specific monitoring and milestones relating to SEND. All actions relating to supporting educational settings are on track, as is the work to ensure that the transformation of CAMHS services in North and South Cumbria has a positive impact on the experiences of children and young people with SEND – including improving waiting times and geographical variation in access to services. The working group will be considering in February the outcomes of the North Cumbria Integrated Care's Occupational Therapist Pilot project undertaken with a group of young people with SEND, following which we will be able to provide specific evidence of impact for that work. Data is telling us that the waiting times for children referred under Tiers 2 and 3 (CAMHS) has reduced. This is positive and something that will be monitoring on an ongoing basis with additional work to enable specific monitoring of waiting times for the SEND cohort of children and young people.

5.6 Working Group 6 – SEN Support.

The working group to review the SEND handbook and criteria is in established with plans in place for launching this with professionals and parents/carers. We have identified strong practice through the Annual Schools Return and have recruited a SEND Associate Adviser who will work with targeted schools, including developing bespoke action plans for individual schools and their staff, developing an audit tool and delivering CPD and training on SEND for schools. The review of the SEND pathway within early help remains a task that is outstanding and is being progressed. Work relating to the SENCO toolkit and related training events are all on track. The Early Years Peer Challenge has been completed and the learning will be used to inform improvement in relation to speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). A pilot has been initiated with a school in each area of the county to develop programme for children with anxiety who cannot attend school, which if successful will be rolled out further. Mitigating actions are in place for a small number of actions where the milestone has slipped which will be resolved imminently. SENCO networks are in place with regular meetings and good attendance during the last school term. We are now receiving information from schools regarding the use of part time timetables to enable more robust monitoring and support.

6.0 NEXT STEPS

The SEND Improvement Board will meet on the 21 January and review the BRAG and monitoring updates. The chairs of the working groups will be challenged and supported regarding progress and any slippage in milestones. An amended (if necessary) set of monitoring updates will be submitted for the DfE visit on 6 February, following which the strategic leads will reflect on any mitigating action necessary in relation to pace of delivery.

Linda Clegg
Independent Chair, Cumbria SEND Improvement Board

January 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Cumbria SEND WSOA BRAG updates
Appendix 2 – Cumbria SEND working group highlight reports

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

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