

Written Statement of Action Update November 2022



Key Issues raised in the SEND Local Area Ofsted report

1. Weaknesses in identifying SEND when difficulties emerge for those at primary and secondary school ages
2. The lack of accuracy in EHC plans and the delays in assessment, writing and review of those plans
3. The underdeveloped arrangements for jointly commissioning and providing the services that children and young people with SEND and their families need
4. Weaknesses in implementing strategically planned co-production at every level when evaluating provision; identifying strengths and weaknesses, and identifying and implementing improvements
5. Weaknesses in the planning and support of transitions both within statutory school age and from statutory school age to post-19 and post-25
6. Weaknesses in how the area shares information, including regarding support systems and the local offer.

Weaknesses in identifying SEND when difficulties emerge for those at primary and secondary school ages

What we have done

- Graduated Approach Guidance document finalized and launched with schools and services. Wider communications with health and social care partners ongoing
- Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) pathway launched
- Central costed provision map tool finalized and launched
- Central 'my SEN support plan' template finalized and launched
- Training plan for SEND Champions in social care is in development with some content prepared ready for uploading onto portal. This has been shared internally for review and will be submitted to the Children's Leadership Team for approval.
- SENCo Induction programme has been reviewed following pilot year. Revised model agreed and a launch event planned for November 2022.
- SENCo 'Microsoft Teams' area launched and there is already evidence of use for networking and information sharing. Formal feedback will be gathered next half term.
- Support for SENCos to categorise primary SEND needs accurately for census returns has been progressed with some further training planned.
- Information sharing for SENCos and education support services on SaLT offer and early intervention.
- The National Autism Strategy has been adopted and a local statement has been developed. A meeting has been scheduled to progress the pathway.

Weaknesses in identifying SEND when difficulties emerge for those at primary and secondary school ages

What we have done

- Work is continuing to reduce the 'second wait' for CAMHS and a trial project will be implemented within Wolverhampton on behalf of the Black Country.
- Additional resources have been allocated to Autism assessment in specialist CAMHS.
- Uptake of health passports continues to be a great success, which were launched in March 2022 jointly by V4P and RWT. Now being used to aid 'tell it once' for CYP/families
- A Communication and Marketing Officer has been appointed to establish clear processes for signposting families to the Universal Offer, from 0-19 services including health, LA and community services, whilst children and young people are on an existing waiting list.
- A clear process has been implemented to ensure that if CYPF are considered to be in need of further intervention within Specialist CAMHS, a regular contact routine is established, routine timescales being 12-weekly contact, and urgent being four-weekly. CAMHS also ensure all families waiting are aware of how to contact the service to seek review, escalation and or advice.
- Scoping work is taking place across the Black Country to better understand the nature of the provision for Autism Diagnosis.
- New DCSSO commenced in post 30 August 2022.

Weaknesses in identifying SEND when difficulties emerge for those at primary and secondary school ages

What we will do next

- Development of parent guide to the Graduated Approach document.
- Develop process for the Graduated Approach to capture the impact from its use within schools.
- Launch guidance for SENCOs on categorising need for census returns and to support for early identification of language needs.
- Feedback on the progress of the autism diagnosis provision will be provided in November 2022.
- E - learning suite being developed with colleagues from education for all social care workforce.
- Work to be undertaken to commence development of a clear all age autism pathway.

The lack of accuracy and consistency in EHC plans and the delays in assessment, writing and review of plans

What we have done

- Annual review pathway process has been developed and shared with professionals and schools with ongoing training taking place this term.
- 4 live training sessions have been delivered and one recorded training session.
- A dedicated SEND QA Advanced Practitioner is being recruited to develop a QA framework and schedule of audit activity across the SEND Partnership.
- A digital EHCP Audit tool 'Invision' has been procured to assist quality assurance of EHCPs. A kick off meeting with Invision, to begin QA process using toolkit was held on 12 October 2022.
- Work is being undertaken with SENSTART, ICT Services, a Business Analyst and Capita to develop Capita One for EHC assessment and review processes.
- Health guidance completed for annual reviews/transition which will help support quality improvements regarding health advice.
- Commenced audits regarding health advice to improve QA
- Development of an Aide-memoire/Tool kit for medical advice for Paediatricians
- Further scoping and signposting to CDC e-learning completed which will continue to aid understanding and the role of good health advice in EHCPs.

The lack of accuracy and consistency in EHC plans and the delays in assessment, writing and review of plans

What we plan to do next

- Quality assurance of new annual review reports from schools to monitor the impact.
- Gain internal views from SEND officers on how the updated documentation is helping the process of amendments.
- Developments to Capita One System to be carried out by end of November to support the EHC Assessment and Review Pathway.
- Procurement of Capita SEND portal to be undertaken and a review undertaken to establish how the portal will be used.
- Parent / carer and young people engagement to be undertaken to co-produce process/template to capture views within annual review process.
- Timeless of EHCP/receipt of health advice for needs assessment with the 6 weeks reported monthly and inputted into the SEND data dashboard

The underdeveloped arrangements for jointly commissioning and providing the services that CYP with SEND and their families need

What we have done

- A joint baseline assessment of current commissioned SEND services has been undertaken to identify opportunities for joint commissioning.
- Three rounds of meetings with providers have taken place to add provision to draft directory following quality assurance.
- Review of Terms of Reference for Joint Strategic Commissioning Group has been carried out to improve quoracy requirements.
- Quality Assurance standards have been re-drafted and shared for feedback.
- Public Health have met with the key stakeholders that can encourage take up of terrific for twos placements for children with SEND, locally to scope current position and make recommendations to increase uptake of placements.
- An action plan has been formulated encourage take up of terrific for twos placements for children with SEND and agreed with partners through the Early Years Steering Group (subject to the support of parents/carers).

What we plan to do next

- Joint Commissioning tracker audit to be undertaken.
- Commissioning Team are holding further meetings with providers w/e 24/10/22 to carry out quality assurance and add to draft providers directory.
- Framework for QA of Alternative Provision to be shared at SPB in January 2023 for approval.
- Engagement and co-production work to take place with parents/carers to develop action plan to encourage take up of terrific for twos placements for children with SEND

Weaknesses in implementing strategically planned co-production at every level when evaluating provision; identifying strengths and weaknesses and implementing improvements

What we have done

- Co-production and Youth Engagement Manager delivered training on co-production for SENCOs with Educational Psychology Service which will be shared wider through Statsshelf.
- Voice 4 Parents evening focus group took place to update on the WSoA and to gain feedback on progress. Further session is scheduled for 8 November 2022.
- SEND Strategy Development session with V4P and council clarified the shared understanding of co-production/consultation and engagement.
- Training has been made available and is being delivered to organisations by the Co-Production and Youth Engagement Team
- HY5 have 13 members all with various SEND needs, with work being done with universal and specialist provisions to recruit members.
- One of the HY5! members being recognised at the Young Citizen of the Year Awards for the work she has done in raising the profile of HY5 and young people with disabilities in the city.
- #YES newsletter is sent out termly raising the profile of their work and to recruit members
- Recruitment of a participation officer to support embedding wider co-production with parents/carers has now been completed and they are just completing their induction and planning their engagement.
- Procurement of accessible communication tools to assist co-production. Widget has now been purchased and is accessible to all council employees on a 3-year contract.

Weaknesses in implementing strategically planned co-production at every level when evaluating provision; identifying strengths and weaknesses and implementing improvements

What we have done

- A celebration of co-production is included within the SEND Partnership Board Communication Plan including recognition of individuals involved, in line with the national co-production week in June 2022
- Inspiring Change and Total Respect training has now been developed and was showcased at the Inclusion Conference on 17 October 2022.

What we plan to do next

- A report is to be submitted to SEND Partnership Board following Using the Contact Quality Indicator Tool on Co-Production all partners have been asked to complete to highlight strengths and gaps and learn from each other good practice – a report planned to go to SEND partnership Board
- Co-production event to be planned

Weaknesses in the planning and support of transitions both within statutory school age and from statutory school age to post-19 and post-25

What we have done

- A Universal Transfer Form has been shared with Secondary Heads and disseminated through schools.
- Funding has been agreed for 2 SEND EET workers.
- PfA careers fair has been planned, on 2 December 2022, to support all our young people with an EHCP from Year 9 upwards.
- An outline for the Transitions Pathway and Protocol has been developed, following the workshop held on 22 Sept which generated good discussions to develop sections relating to universal, targeted and specialist transitions.
- Findings of local review of practices in Children's Social Care has been gathered and are to be shared with group.
- Dip sampling of health advice relating to PfA outcomes undertaken.
- The programme of practice visits, via the PAMHS Nursing team, is continuing with the current position showing that as at September 57.3% of all individuals aged 14-25 have received an LD Annual Health Check in the past 12 months.
- HCP provision for children with SEND is due to be enhanced.
- In School Nursing (5-19) there has been the addition of a Specialist School Nurse and 2x Public Health Associate Posts specifically to provide support for children with additional needs in mainstream schools. Posts have been recruited to and start mid-November.
- Guidance developed for health professionals to ensure that health can contribute to the TAC and PfA processes to support transition.
- PfA pathway for EHCP outcomes has been drafted and is due to be shared with professionals.
- An annual review template (EHCP) has been developed for health professionals to support and improve contributions to annual and transition reviews of EHCP.

Weaknesses in the planning and support of transitions both within statutory school age and from statutory school age to post-19 and post-25

What we have done

- ADHD Clinical Nurse specialist has commenced post at RWT and is working with the Trust Quality Improvement team and Voice 4 Parents to develop the support needed for Children, young people and parents.
- Transition Clinical Nurse Specialist commenced in post at RWT in May 2022 working with children with complex needs and special schools. A transition panel which is held at least quarterly take places to coordinate the care of those with most complex health needs.
- Transition CNS has scoped the transition pathways within the Trust and attends the LA Transition/PfA workstream
- Special School Nursing have an action plan in place to support improvements around the annual health check work.

What we plan to do next

- Complete PfA Audit following determination of best approach to engage with YP to complete relevant section.
- Explore links between recent published guidance around annual health checks and how this works in Wolverhampton and Transitions work.
- SEND Mainstream Nurse due to commence post during November 2022.
- SEND health visitor post appointed.

Weaknesses in how the area shares information, including regarding support systems and the local offer

What we have done

- Workshop was held on 13 September 2022, with all content owners invited, to map content required and develop their requirements for replacement website.
- Local Offer & Communication Officer has been appointed following second recruitment wave and is due to start in post during November 2022, to drive forward, refresh and migration of the Local Offer.
- Support from the Design Team has been requested to work with parents and young people to get a feel of what the Local Offer means to them to develop the brand.
- A range of service across SEND were promoted during the Inclusion Summit on 17 October 2022 which was attended by senior leaders and SENCOS from Wolverhampton Schools.
- SEND Newsletter published in October 2022 sharing information on the WSoA monitoring visit in June 2022, launch of the Graduated Response and the revised EHCP Annual Review Pathway.

What we plan to do next

- Workshops to be held with Parent Carers on 8 November to develop requirements for Local Offer.
- Workshops to be arranged in November to develop requirements for Local Offer with young people.

Weaknesses in how the area shares information, including regarding support systems and the local offer

What we plan to do next

- Align development of leisure offer to work being undertaken on YO! Wolverhampton to widen offer available on site.
- Work to be undertaken with Design Team, young people and parent carers to develop Local Offer Branding.
- Work with Parent Carers and Young People to develop Local Offer logo and create mood board to develop branding for use on web site and associated marketing material.

Questions?