

REPORT TO SEND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Title:	Highlight report from SEND Operations Group
Report by:	Gary Bloom Head of SEND SBC
Meeting Date:	5th July 2021

1. Summary of progress and actions since last period

SENDOPS met on 24th June 2021 and considered the following items.

Update Ofsted & CQC Re-Visit

SENDOPS considered the final revisit letter that have been published the previous day. The Inspectors concluded that 3 of the 4 areas of weakness identified by the original Inspection in 2018, have now made sufficient progress, the exception being Leadership and Joint Commissioning. A meeting with DfE/NHSE was taking place in July to discuss next steps.

SENDOPS considered the following 3 questions.

1. Do you recognise Southend in the findings?
2. Is it a fair reflection? – did the Inspectors miss anything that still needs to be looked at?
3. Of the Areas mentioned in the letter, what should we prioritise in the next 12 months?

SENDOPS recognised Southend in the findings, acknowledged that whilst a lot of work had taken place at pace and measurable improvements had been made since the initial inspection there was still more to do before CYP with SEND and their parents felt the impact of the new ways of working, with a disconnect between the findings in the report and how some families are feeling.

We need to remember to remain focused, keep up the momentum and make a measurable impact - Be proud but not complacent.

SEND Strategy

SENDOPS considered a report highlighting the ongoing work around the development of the 3 year SEND Strategy which was scheduled for publication in September:

- The Board to agree and refine the priorities
- The SEND Scrum will take the lead on wider consultation with a number of smaller engagement sessions with partners and young people.
- The SEND Strategy timescales were agreed with the aim to sign off fully at the Health & Wellbeing Board on 08.09.21

SENDOPS provided views around prospective design, content and format.

SEND Scrum was tasked with working on an early draft capturing views from SEND Partnership Summit, SEND Revisit, WSoA, Previous SEND Strategy, SEF, ongoing engagement activities undertaken by Local Offer Review Team and Your Say Southend and other stakeholder meetings where strategic intent had been socialized.

The Forward Plan

SENDOPS discussed the need for the Forward Plan to include a focus on performance with services being scheduled to present annual reports focussing on evidence of impact to the Board. Members were asked to nominate services to be incorporated into the Forward Plan.

Local Offer Review Group

SENDOPS reviewed the notes of the meeting which took place on 22nd April and now has a good groundwork in place with good ideas and a clear idea in where the work is going.

Going forward the Group will use the SE7 evaluation framework and the Code of Practice to review the Local Offer and make sure it meets the requirements.

The Group will be providing feedback on the Guide for Universal Services by 9th July and then a co-produced document will be designed and launched.

The Group has a number of key projects to work on over the coming months including the SEND Co-production Charter, contributing to the specification for re-tendering the website and design of a new survey to replace POET.

The Livewell site is being re-tendered with the specification needed by mid -September 2021. The Group are working on identifying requirements for the Local Offer. The process is being led by the Council Procurement Team.

Communications Task and Finish Group

This group has not met as hoped due partly to the pandemic and more pressing priorities for the Communications teams within the CCG and Council.

The role and remit of the Group needs to be decided with a view to it providing the technical focus that supports engagement work linked to the Local Offer and Voice of the Child and Young Person workstreams.

A meeting is to be held on 25th June to agree the resource needed and gain the commitment from Communications Teams.

EHCP Handbook

SENDOPS approved a handbook developed to support Health staff involved in the EHCP process.

2. Risks & Issues

Risk	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Capacity - additional resources are required across the wider SEND partnership to keep up the momentum and continue to improve both outcomes and impact for CYP and families	High –The additional capacity provided by Carole Brookes Associates was recognised and needed moving forwards as staff across the SEND partnership were at full capacity.	Managers to consider and put forward suggestions re level of resource to provide capacity. Carole had been able to provide and additional 5 days support through to end of Summer Term.
The reprocurement of Livewell Southend would not provide sufficient attention to	Medium – need reassurance that LO Website remains coproduced and does	Tracey championing the Local Offer in all relevant meetings, assurance has been sort and provided from both Data and IT teams

the unique requirements of the SEND Local Offer Website	not become a corporate website.	
The work of the Communications Task & Finish group has not progressed as anticipated due to lack of capacity.	High –The Comms strategy or communications plan has not been fully developed. There is insufficient support for key messages and campaigns	Need to agree ongoing resource to undertake this to support the partnership. This group would be the “go to” group for all consultations, comms, user stories, media campaigns right across the SEND Partnership.
Outstanding piece of work to incorporate Health data into the SEND profile	High – is there sufficient capacity within OPIT	Need to agree a resource to undertake this and confirm content.

3. Proposed priorities and activities for next period

Activity and outcome	By when
Engagement sessions to include partners across the local area plus parents, carers, children and young people who will play key role in the development of the SEND Strategy.	June 21
SEND strategy drafted and presented to board.	05.07.21
Updates to the SEF in-line with Summit and Re-Visit feedback	05.07.21
Forward Plan agreed and updated and available for full review by the Board	05.07.21
Quality and Outcomes Framework - task and finish group was postponed to 20.05.21	This item could not be prioritised over the completion of the SEF, the development of the Strategy and SEND Revisit. To be discussed at next meeting

4. Recommendations / Discussion / Decisions required from Partnership Board

Board to consider the emerging priorities within the SEND Strategy and agree the themes and values – Separate agenda item around SEND Strategy
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