

HIGHLIGHT REPORT

Meeting:	Joint Commissioning Group - 15th September 2021
Report by:	Caroline McCarron, Assistant Alliance Director (Interim), Southend and Castle Point and Rochford Alliance
Meeting Date:	30th October 2021

Highlights of the Southend SEND Partnership Joint Commissioning meeting held on 15th September 2021;

1. Accelerator Progress Plan (APP) – The group discussed the context and actions within the draft APP, noting the potential for both direct (commissioned service) and indirect (totality of work) outcomes. Utilizing the skills and experience of the respective performance teams may provide a new perspective in terms of smart and measurable key performance indicators (KPIs).
2. Joint Commissioning Priorities – Projects identified in the last academic year (see updates below) will continue to conclusion and are working towards becoming business as usual (BAU). With this in mind the group discussed potential new areas of focus for the current academic year spanning a variety of subjects, key points included effective communication and proactive signposting, nurture and resilience, sensory needs, training, transitions and many more. The group noted the essential link to the draft Southend SEND Strategy and the alignment of future priorities with the identified strategic priorities

Current Project Updates;

Priority Area 1 (P1) – Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) – Quality Assurance

Milestone	Completed by date	RAG
Health EHCP process agreed and implemented	31 st March 2021	Green
Health EHCP handbook published	31 st March 2021	Green
Social Care & Education EHCP process agreed and implemented	31 st March 2021	Green
Health Providers have robust quality assurance process in place	15 th May 2021	Green
Quality assurance audit and monitoring process agreed and implemented	31 st May 2021	Green
TOR for Quality Assurance Audit Group agreed and reporting template adopted	30 th October 2021	Grey
TOP RISKS & ISSUES	MITIGATION / ACTIONS TO RESOLVE	RAG
- EHCP Hub is still providing some technical operability issues to resolve to support ease of use and efficient upload by providers.	- Southend stakeholder meeting scheduled to discuss collectively and identify blocks and challenges and potential solutions	Yellow

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health representation on national Liquid Logic forum to discuss technical glitches and update requirements. - Wider risks captured through full project plan. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity to complete additional data entry workload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EHCP Hub development reported across wider SENDOPs action plans for progress reporting against key milestones. 	

Proposed priorities and activities for next period	
Activity and outcome	By when
Meeting with key individuals to review the overarching quality assurance process for EHCPs to ensure a common understanding, finalize TOR etc.	October 31 st , 2021
Hub review meeting to identify what is working well and any challenges to functionality or access, clarify what cannot be easily overcome and seek potential solutions.	October 31 st , 2021

Priority Area 2 (P2)– Joint Commissioning of Therapies – The Balanced System

Milestone	Completed by date	RAG
Mapping SLT, OT, PT for providers, commissioning, schools and families	31 st August 2021	
Analysis and recommendations complete for all areas including education to inform new system model	30 th November 2021	
Develop a Proposed model/framework for the implementation of the balance system for Essex	31 st January 2022	
Develop the business case with clear outcomes for families in Essex	1 st March 2022	
Governance, procurement and commissioning of any new models or ways of working for Essex	30 th June 2022	
Develop performance and analysis dashboard	30 th June 2022	
Go live	1 st September 2022	
TOP RISKS & ISSUES	MITIGATION / ACTIONS TO RESOLVE	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slippage in time scales for completion of actions and achievement of milestones - Variation in capacity to undertake Balanced System mapping work across therapy and school provider settings due to ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All providers are actively engaged in this work. - Wider provider staff body engagement with work is noted in wider planned actions. - Wider risks captured through full project plan. 	

Covid redeployments/reset and measures to adjust provision.		
- School capacity to engage may be limited due to competing pressures – particularly due to Covid.	- Ongoing monitoring via Project Group. - Communication strategy in place.	

The Balance System project takes a whole system approach to delivery of effective, high quality therapies. By utilising all available resources i.e. early years settings, schools, community health providers, voluntary sector etc., the balance system aims to embed universal, targeted and specialist approaches to ensure early identification of need and the right support at the right time and in the right place.

This project is taking a whole Essex approach and includes health, care and education partners across the Southend, Essex and Thurrock footprint, all of which have made a positive commitment to engage in this initiative and are doing so proactively. However, it is important to highlight that team capacity at a time where all services are working under extreme pressure is limited and this has led to slippage in all milestones including the completion of service mapping, *the timelines in the milestones above have been adjusted to accommodate the delay in line with the overarching project plan.*

The Multi-school’s council are involved to lead on young people’s engagement. The Southend SEND Independent Forum (SSIF) are actively attending regular meetings for this work.

Proposed priorities and activities for next period

Activity and outcome	By when
Engagement Programme; - Parent & Family Engagement - Schools Engagement - Wider Stakeholder Engagement (incl. VCS, NDCS)	30 th November 2021
The next Joint Commissioning meeting will see a deep dive into the project, activities and outcomes so far and next steps	30 th November 2021

Priority Area 3 (P3) Multi-agency 0-19 neuro-developmental pathway.

Milestone	Completed by date	RAG
Governance & Accountability – Project Initiation - to embed a multi-agency triage of all referrals for neurodevelopmental concerns.	Complete	Green
Initiation & Planning - Service model, outcomes and pathway co-production.	Mid-April 2021.	Red
Section 75 Agreement – formalised.	30 th April 2021	Green
Mobilisation of staff to new service team.	April-May 2021	Red
Delivery – Go Live	30 th June 2021	Red

SSIF developed family resource information pack.	31 st July 2022	
Benefits Realisation	Quarterly Reporting to Joint Commissioning Group/SSPB	
TOP RISKS & ISSUES	MITIGATION / ACTIONS TO RESOLVE	RAG
P3 Neurodevelopment - Delay in roll out of Programme.	- Recruitment now completed - Soft launch planned for October 21 to test process and mechanisms - Wider risks captured through full project plan.	
Financial governance requires sign off before recruitment can commence.	- Funding approval in place and now held within single budget line. Section 75 in final draft form.	

Proposed priorities and activities for next period

Activity and outcome	By when
Finalize the Communications plan for the soft launch	10 th October 2021
Agree final version of SOP	10 th October 2021
Agree final version of the ND Family Guide	30 th November 2021

The timeline for mobilization of the Neu Pathway has slipped against original expectations, this has predominately been due to recruitment processes. The service lead is now in post and recruitment to the practitioner roles has been successful with expected start dates in October or early November. Specialist training to supplement existing skills, knowledge and awareness for the team has been identified via the Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

The pathway will see a 'soft' launch in October to test the process and mechanisms in place, followed by a formal launch pre-Christmas. The referral paperwork has been streamlined to avoid unnecessary duplication and a detailed communications plan has been developed to support the launch of the pathway.

The neurodevelopment family guide is progressing well with publication expected pre-Christmas.

Work continues on the development of a pathway for ADHD diagnostic testing using QB Test methodology, mobilization is expected in April 2022.

ASD diagnostic assessments continue to be outsourced and waiting times are reducing accordingly.

1. Recommendations / Discussion / Decisions required from Joint Commissioning Group

- To note the content of the report and support key requirements of each of these workstreams as required.
- Joint Commissioning Group are requested to ensure wider workforce buy-in to each of the key areas of delivery as they develop.