

REPORT TO SEND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

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

1. Summary of progress and actions since last period

SENDOPs met on 21st September 2021 and considered the following items.

Accelerated Progress Plan

SENDOPS considered the final draft version of the APP, accepted the final opportunity to suggest amendments and acknowledged the reasons for delayed submission that had been agreed by both the DfE and NHSE. SENDOPs agreed to receive the first APP highlight report at their next meeting.

SEND Strategy

SENDOPS considered both the latest draft version of the SEND Strategy and a revised timeline for delivery resulting from the agreement to delay publication of the Strategy until the findings of the Peer Review were known. The recommendations from SENDOPs form the basis of the paper submitted to Board today.

Local Offer Review Group

SENDOPS considered a highlight report from the most recent meeting of the Local Offer review group noting that the group was scheduled to meet again shortly after the SENDOPs meeting.

SENDOPs offered feedback on the draft Guide for Universal Services, suggestion was that it may make sense to split the document so those recommendations specifically for schools were separate for other providers of universal services.

The draft Local Offer Annual Report was also discussed and comments received. Further comment and work welcomed on both documents prior to October half term allowing the documents to be completed and presented to next SENDOPS meeting.

Communications Task and Finish Group

SENDOPs received an update on the Comms Task & Finish Group. The chair had met with comms leads and there is a real commitment to be involved to look at technical aspects of communicating; how we do it and when, but due to other pressures work has stalled. The chair will arrange future meeting dates and see new membership from schools and other partners. SENDOPs reiterated the necessity of effective Comms work around SEND.

SENDOPS further considered how they wanted to pursue the performance focus element of their work and agreed to submit requests for deep dives to be undertaken in addition to receiving reports from individual services.

SENDOPS received an update on the Neu Approach Pathway, soft launch is scheduled for 4th October.

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 –additional capacity has been highlighted as a requirement across the partnership and a workstream (Core Team capacity review) identified in the APP to investigate and make recommendations.	APP action to be completed by November 21.
The reprocurement of Livewell Southend would not provide sufficient attention to the unique requirements of the SEND Local Offer Website	Medium – need reassurance that LO Website remains coproduced and does not become a corporate website.	Local Offer lead is championing the Local Offer in all relevant meetings, assurance has been sort and provided from both Data and IT teams
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	To be factored into the Core Team capacity review as part of the APP.
Recent issues relating to SEN Transport and Banding had raised concerns about sufficiency of communication with SSIF around key workstreams.	High – lack of communication around key issues places SSIF in a difficult position which is not the intention.	The APP recommends a development and support programme is agreed for November 21 to ensure SSIF receive the support they need from the Partnership ensuring that communication is more effective moving forwards.

3. Proposed priorities and activities for next period

Activity and outcome	By when	
SENDOPS members to further review the APP; providing feedback so that GB can finalise APP.	ALL	24/09/2021
Submit APP progress report for challenge on progress and actions at the next meeting.	GB	02/11/2021
Members to review and feedback comments on Guide for Universal Services.	ALL	22/10/2021
GB to present final Guide for Universal Services for sign off at the next meeting	GB	02/11/2021

Members to review and feedback comments on Local Offer Annual report.	ALL	22/10/2021
Arrange meeting dates and new membership for comms T&F group.	CMc	30/09/2021
Send members a list of deep dive themes for members to vote upon.	CJ	30/09/2021

4. Recommendations / Discussion / Decisions required from Partnership Board

Board to agree the revised timeline for SEND Strategy under separate agenda item. Board to agree how it wishes to be sighted on APP and to consider and comment upon the risks and issues identified.