

## HIGHLIGHT REPORT

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Joint Commissioning Group held 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Caroline McCarron, Assistant Alliance Director (Interim), Southend and Castle Point and Rochford Alliance</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>

### Highlights of the Southend SEND Partnership Joint Commissioning meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021;

1. Accelerator Progress Plan (APP) – The group reviewed the updated draft APP, acknowledging the supplementary detail added to outline measures and KPIs. No further amendments suggested prior to submission to the Department for Education and NHSE for sign off.
2. Triple P Parenting Programme – Commissioned by the mental health pan-Essex Collaborative Commissioning Forum (CCF), this web-based programme provides specific Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Conduct Disorder modules. Consideration is being given to extending the contract term for a short period, feedback from the group, particularly views from members who have used the programme was collated to feed back.
3. Joint Commissioning Priorities – Deep dive presentations were presented in relation to two of the key current priority areas – the Balanced System and Neurodevelopment pathway. Unfortunately, the programme lead for the Balanced System project was unwell and unable to attend, a brief overview of progress was provided and detailed overview will be provided at the next meeting.
4. Southend SEND Peer Review – An update was provided on the arrangements for the upcoming Peer Review.
5. Southend SEND Strategy – An updated was provided on progress and timelines for completion of the strategy.
6. Lighthouse Child Development Centre – The technical elements to enable the identification and award to a new contract provider are complete (i.e. activity, costs, specification). The Mid & South Essex Community Collaborative has been formally approached to express their interest to deliver the provision with a consideration to safety and financial viability. Backlog trajectories and waiting times have reduced significantly and a dedicated phone line for families is established.

### Current Project Updates;

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

Milestone	Due date	RAG	Revised due date	RAG
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Health EHCP process agreed	31/03/2021		N/a	
Health EHCP process implemented	31/03/2021		31/01/2022	
Health EHCP handbook published	31/03/2021		31/01/2022	
Social Care & Education EHCP process agreed and implemented	31/03/2021		31/12/2021	
Health Providers have robust quality assurance process in place	15/05/2021		31/03/2021	
Quality assurance audit and monitoring process agreed and implemented	31/05/2021		31/02/2022	
TOR for Quality Assurance Audit Group agreed and reporting template adopted	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2021		30/11/2021	

TOP RISKS & ISSUES	MITIGATION / ACTIONS TO RESOLVE	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EHCP Hub is still providing some technical operability issues to resolve to support ease of use and efficient upload by providers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Southend stakeholder meeting scheduled to discuss collectively and identify blocks and challenges and potential solutions</li> <li>- Health representation on national Liquid Logic forum to discuss technical glitches and update requirements.</li> <li>- Wider risks captured through full project plan.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity to complete additional data entry workload</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EHCP Hub development reported across wider SENDOPs action plans for progress reporting against key milestones.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non compliance of statutory timescale to provide necessary information within 6 weeks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of outstanding contributions circulated to DMO weekly</li> <li>- Implementation of escalation routes to ensure delivery within time scales</li> <li>- Community providers have developed and implemented a template for professionals to complete to align with information requirements</li> </ul>	

**Proposed priorities and activities for next period**

Activity and outcome	By when
Meeting with key individuals to review the overarching quality assurance quality assurance process for EHCPs to ensure a common understanding, finalize TOR etc.	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022 (Originally October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 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.	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 (Originally October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2021)

EHCP Handbook to be finalised and designed

31st January 2022 (Originally 31<sup>st</sup>  
March 2021)

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

Milestone	Due date	RAG	Revised due date	RAG
Mapping SLT, OT, PT for providers, commissioning, schools and families	31/08/2021	RAG	30/10/2021	RAG
Analysis and recommendations complete for all areas including education to inform new system model	30/11/2021	RAG	30/11/2021	RAG
Develop a Proposed model/framework for the implementation of the balance system for Essex	31/01/2022	RAG	31/01/2022	RAG
Develop the business case with clear outcomes for families in Essex	01/03/2022	RAG	01/03/2022	RAG
Governance, procurement and commissioning of any new models or ways of working for Essex	30/06/2022	RAG	30/06/2022	RAG
Develop performance and analysis dashboard	30/06/2022	RAG	30/06/2022	RAG
Go live	01/09/2022	RAG	01/09/2022	RAG

TOP RISKS & ISSUES	MITIGATION / ACTIONS TO RESOLVE	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slippage in time scales for completion of actions and achievement of milestones</li> <li>- Variation in capacity to undertake Balanced System mapping work across therapy and school provider settings due to ongoing Covid redeployments/reset and measures to adjust provision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All providers are actively engaged in this work.</li> <li>- Wider provider staff body engagement with work is noted in wider planned actions.</li> <li>- Wider risks captured through full project plan.</li> <li>- Decision may be required by Southend Local Area to adopt changes ahead of wider Essex area – implications to be discussed at December 2021 Joint Commissioning Group.</li> </ul>	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School capacity to engage may be limited due to competing pressures – particularly due to Covid.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing monitoring via Project Group.</li> <li>- Communication strategy in place.</li> </ul>	RAG

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
All mapping information has been shared with partners, meetings are being scheduled to review and amend/clarify. Providers will have the opportunity to submit additional data if necessary.	early December 2021
The next Joint Commissioning meeting will see a deep dive into the project, activities, outcomes so far and next steps.	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Potential revision of timescales has been flagged by the lead commissioner at the fortnightly meeting. Discussions are currently taking place as to the scale of any potential new model and if this is achievable by September 2022. Discussion are underway to identify if any elements could be adopted ahead of a wider Essex approach.	December 2021

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

Milestone	Due date	RAG	Revised due date	RAG
Governance & Accountability – Project Initiation - to embed a multi-agency triage of all referrals for neurodevelopmental concerns.	Complete	Green	n/a	Green
Initiation & Planning - Service model, outcomes and pathway co-production.	Mid-April 2021.	Red	30/08/2021	Green
Section 75 Agreement – formalised.	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Signed off July 2021)	Green	31/07/2021	Green
Mobilisation of staff to new service team.	April-May 2021	Red	08/11/2021	Green
Delivery – Go Live	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Red	October 2021 - soft launch – Formal Launch pre-Christmas 2021	Green
SSIF developed family resource information pack.	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	Red	31/12/2021	Green

Benefits Realisation	Quarterly Reporting to Joint Commissioning Group/SSPB From February 2022)			
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TOP RISKS & ISSUES	MITIGATION / ACTIONS TO RESOLVE	RAG
<p><b>P3 Neurodevelopment</b> - Delay in roll out of Programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruitment now completed – full complement of staff (Family Support workers &amp; Team Leader) now in place.</li> <li>- Soft launch planned for October 21 to test process and mechanisms – soft launch has started with cases currently sitting with Early Help</li> <li>- Wider risks captured through full project plan.</li> </ul>	Yellow
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effective support for the high number of families on the existing waiting list for the Lighthouse service whilst also launching/opening the pathway to new referrals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive review of the Lighthouse caseload completed to identify caseload numbers and waiting times</li> <li>- Developing a mechanism for information sharing underpinned by the My Care IG framework</li> <li>- Subsequent to information sharing agreement will cross match to identify duplication of families known to both teams</li> </ul>	Yellow

Proposed priorities and activities for next period	
Activity and outcome	By when
Finalise the Communications plan for the soft launch	15/11/2021
Agree final version of SOP	30/11/ 2021
Agree final version of the ND Family Guide	31/12/2021

The timeline slippage for mobilisation of the Neu Pathway was recognised through the previous highlight report to SSPB. However, all posts are now in situ and undertaking specialist training to supplement existing skills, knowledge and awareness. This is further strengthened locally through lead clinician oversight from the EPUT clinical psychology service through supporting the development and quality assurance approach with the Early Help Team. Multi-disciplinary meetings have started and are currently meeting every two weeks.

A significant number of families are awaiting review at the Lighthouse Child Development Centre, some of which have been waiting for an extended period of time. There is a strong commitment to

provide support and equity of approach for families already within referral systems to enable effective joint triage for pre-existing cases. This will impact the capacity of the pathway to accept new referrals, hence the agreement for a soft launch 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 communications plan will be tailored to specific audiences, i.e. parents, SENCOs and GPs.

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. Staffing solutions to support the pathway are currently being developed and aligned to the Lighthouse transformation work.

ASD diagnostic assessments continue to be outsourced and waiting times are reducing accordingly. A joint data set is currently being finalised for this work which will enable greater oversight of the throughput stages for cases from referral to assessment.

#### 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.