

## REPORT TO SEND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Highlight report from SEND Operations Group</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Gary Bloom Head of SEND SBC</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>

### 1. Summary of progress and actions since last period

SENDOPs met on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and considered the following items.

#### Peer Review by Local Government Association

SENDOPs discussed the High-Level Implementation Plan that had been prepared to address the issues raised in the LGA Peer Review and noted that the recommendations and action plan had been fully adopted by Cabinet.

The following areas of concern were noted;

The action plan had an education bias and required a broader Social Care input.

Some of the actions have tight timescales and would prove challenging to achieve given the risks around capacity highlighted in the Partnership Risk Register.

The action plan was based on putting right things that had 'gone wrong' and we needed to focus on preventative action to ensure this was not the case in the future.

#### All Plans Monitoring Progress Tracker

It was agreed that we would have a single tracker that picked up all actions identified in the Accelerated Progress Plan, Peer Review Action Plan and when finalised the SEND Strategy Action Plan.

There were concerns expressed that the Capacity Review had not been finalised as was awaiting full input from the CCG.

The 6-month monitoring visit with DfE/NHSE had been rearranged for the 19<sup>th</sup> March and was now an online meeting. It was agreed that time needed to be invested to ensure that all actions due for completion before 31<sup>st</sup> March be brought up to 'blue' status before the meeting.

As part of the SSIF sustainability APP action work was advancing to find them a 'base'.

The Local Offer Review Group were working on number of surveys – some had progressed well, some progressing on schedule finishing this month, but the design work on some of the surveys had not commenced and the proposal was that these were delayed until the summer, recommendation to delay or find another solution if that is not acceptable.

SEND Strategy Action Planning sessions were now taking place considering the implications and recommendations of the Peer Review.

SENDOPs considered the scorecard and noted some of the targets set for Health and Social Care had not been achieved, these would be followed up at the Health Assurance Group and internal investigation in Social Care, feeling was it may be a data quality issue. Again, it was highlighted that the indicator around timeliness of advice was created specifically to populate the APP scorecard and was not something that directly related to the joint commissioning and strategic leadership weakness identified in the APP.

## SEND Partnership Risk Log

The risk log was shared, and new items added since last meeting were discussed. It was agreed the risk log will be sent out prior to each SENDOPS meeting and any significant changes to scoring and any new risks reported at the meeting – risks scored as red would be escalated to SEND Strategic Partnership Board.

### Operational Performance Focus – EHC Needs Assessments

SENDOPS considered data regarding number of requests for EHC Needs Assessment received and agreed/refused. SENDOPS noted the significant reduction in those refused over the past year and from 20/21 when Southend was often reported as third worst in the Country. Data was also presented highlighting the source of request and the outcome of those requests which highlighted an increase in parental requests not leading to assessment, sometimes because the school did not support the request leading to insufficient information/evidence being provided to demonstrate the CYP may have SEN requiring an EHCP.

### Shaping the Forward Plan

SENDOPS reflected on the content of the meetings over the past year and considered future areas of interest particularly around performance or service spotlights. The group were asked to suggest areas of interest to be added to the forward plan for future meetings retaining a performance focus but also service spotlights and documents/policies to review. The following came up areas to explore

- Graduated response, numbers and ages of SEN Support pupils
- School Attendance
- School Refusal
- Neurodevelopmental pathways
- Covid Experience/mental health issues
- EWHMS to be invited for discussion
- Policies
- Children's Mental Health Partnership

### SSIF Community Engagement Feedback Project

SSIF had benefitted from support from an experienced chair from another Parent Carer Forum giving them advice how to grow reputation and reach.

SSIF proposed that a series of meetings are run on the Council premises with key people attending – question and answer panel according to main themes of the meeting – monthly hot topics relating to SEND

Questions sent in advance and space at the end of meeting to answer ad hoc questions

Agreed to support these meetings once arranged

## 2. Risks & Issues - Are now reported via the Risk Log

### 3. Proposed priorities and activities for next period

Activity and outcome		By when	
Task		Initials	Due Date
Partnership Capacity Review to be completed and submitted to respective management teams		SEND Scrum	11/02/2022
Risk Log to be updated to reflect increasing pressure on staffing across SEND service including advisory SENCO Team		GB	04/02/2022
Address all actions in the APP to ensure 'blue' In advance of APP monitoring meeting		SEND Scrum	05/03/2022
Follow up on timeliness of advice for EHCNA		CMc/AP	05/03/2022
Additional Information to be added to Forward Plan and shared at next SENDOPs		GB	18/03/2022
SSIF to progress planning of Town Hall meetings		SSIF	18/03/2022
GB/SSIF to progress securing a base for SSIF		GB/SSIF	31/03/2022

### 4. Recommendations / Discussion / Decisions required from Partnership Board

SSPB to consider the risks identified and mitigations proposed.