

SOUTHEND SEND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Thursday 22nd June 2023 2022 10am - 12pm
Via MS Teams

Notes	
10.00	<p>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies Michael Marks opened the meeting and welcomed Maria Crowley Interim Director Children, Mental Health & Neurodiversity Mid and South Essex ICB. A round of introductions were made.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Lissa Marie Minnis. Owen Richards made apologies as would need to leave at 11am.</p>
10.03	<p>2. Declarations of interest None recorded</p>
10.05	<p>3. Minutes of the last meeting The final draft minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed as correct.</p>
10.10	<p>4. Action log and feedback: The action log was reviewed with updates noted:</p> <p>Actions 89,95,99 and 101 are likely to be updated and subsumed into future actions arising from the recent inspection. Further updates to these actions would be made in line with the updated Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>102 – CJ advised an EHC Hub operational evaluation report was presented to SENDOPS in May. Agreed to close this action. LH requested a new action - report to be broadened into a digital update to take account of national developments such as the shared care record, national EHCP template developments and market portal explorations for 2025. Given latter activity scheduled for Autumn 2023 suggest update in Spring 2024.</p> <p>104 – CJ updated that a meeting took place and another is scheduled for 28.06.23 to align previous coproduction charter work into the new SCC Co Production Framework that will include a SEND Annex. This piece of work should be completed by the end of term. Agreed to close action.</p> <p>105 – GB advised the learning from education aspect had been completed but awaits the feedback from health and social care in order to combine this into one report. SD requested this action was kept open as the case review indicated failings across the system that have not been suitably answered by services or feedback to the family. Board agreed to the following steps for this action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expectation that health and social care complete the learning and feedback directly to the family and the close the action. - Findings from the case review will feed into learning at an operational level which will then inform Board. - The next Board meeting will consider how to receive future reviews / case studies. This is part of the wider review of the Governance structures / feedback mechanisms across the SEND Area Partnership. Findings from this type of review should lead to actions that the Board will take to ensure ownership and oversight through a strategic lens.

	<p>107 – GB advised that he has drafted a report with input from JM. AW welcomes input. There have been some developments since the report was drafted therefore agreed to keep action open and a refresh of the report will be presented to a future meeting.</p> <p>108 – close action complete</p> <p>109 – close with a new action. An updated SEF will be produced in Autumn 2023 in response to the inspection and will include AP evaluation</p> <p>110 – close action no longer needed as inspection visit took place</p> <p>111- close APP closed following inspection visit</p>
10.30	<p>5. Current perspective from partners</p> <p>CMc advised Board the ICB will be undergoing further changes. A consultation on the reorganisation is currently ongoing and ends on 30th June although there are indications this may be extended as the ICB works with NHSE on the voluntary redundancy scheme. CMc advised there remains a strong commitment to SEND partnership work but it may look different.</p> <p>MC advised she is keen to engage wider stakeholders and is happy to share the consultation documents with Board members. The proposals outline changes through structure charts rather than lots of narrative.</p> <p>MM welcomed that SEND is captured in the structure but raised concern on behalf of Board that the ICB reorganisation lack a specified Children’s lead and CAMHS/mental health lead. GB advised the ICB restructure and associated risks would be added to the risk log.</p> <p>MC was confident feedback is being reviewed and ongoing conversations are being held, The ICB have undertaken a midpoint consultation review and there is acknowledgement that the structure does not sufficiently cover SEND, babies and children.</p> <p>OR agreed it was important to add the ICB restructure to the risk log adding that loss of staff and posts often impacts on the organisational memory and expertise of those that know and understand local systems.</p> <p>MC agreed to ensure the consultation documents would be circulated to all, welcoming feedback from partners on the potential impact of change. This should be emailed to MC or CMc. SD advised the Parent Carer Forum would provide a formal response.</p> <p>Action: CMc to send CJ consultation documents for circulation to Board members.</p> <p>Action: Board asked CMc or MC to present details of changes and what they mean to the next board.</p>
10.40	<p>- Ofsted & CQC SEND Inspection Report</p> <p>LH advised Board on the recent Ofsted & CQC SEND Inspection Report that was published on 9.6.23 following the inspection visit in March.</p> <p>The overall judgement was grade 2; <i>‘inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).’</i> There was acknowledgement in the report that this is an improving position, the report shows variable experiences of families, but some are positive. LH noted the area partnership should be pleased and proud of the progress to date; there is lots to celebrate.</p>

LH provided Board a summary of the inspection outcomes and recommendations including challenges for Board and the Area Partnership's governance structures. Some identifiable next steps include:

- Review of this Board membership and TORs and ensure it is representative of all areas of child and young person's experience. There are some challenges in terms of how the partnership include leisure and community at board level.
- Improve overview governance establishing regular reporting cycle to Health and Wellbeing Board. There is an agreement in principle that there will be a children focussed reporting item at each HWBB meeting.
- Review overview and governance links within ICB
- Key consideration needs to be given to the sharing of accurate area based data that can support rigorous and effective self-evaluation, the deployment of resources and the identification of commissioning priorities. This has been an action for Board to achieve (action 89 on the action plan)
- A significant percentage of the inspection focused on inclusion, alternative provision and pupils at SEN support. This reflects the DFE's SEND Review Implementation plan. The Board needs to ensure there are mechanisms in the area partnership structures to reflect this renewed focus.
- Deliver change with pace. The Inspection identified that repeated reviews and scrutiny activities have delayed implementation and impact significantly on service delivery. Failure to deliver impacts on community trust and confidence. We need to focus on delivering to children and young people.
- The partnership's self-evaluation needs to align to the new inspection framework and a new updated version is required.

MM accepted there is still lots to achieve. This Board has helped to deliver on the progress so far and thanked Board for their continued contribution towards improvements.

LH noted a key challenge was capturing in the strategic action plan how the Board would empower leadership and demonstrate impact.

JM felt clarity was needed on the functions of the area partnership Boards and groups as some roles appear to have been muddled. LH agreed that a review of roles and responsibility of Board and groups is needed. Part of the process will be to clarify who is responsible for gathering and passing information on and how the partnership holds each other to account.

SD felt Board need to empower staff across the system and give them confidence to do their jobs and be given the capacity and resources to do them well and to communicate effectively with families. There has been interruptions and distractions in the system which has not empowered staff or service delivery. Staff have lacked confidence in doing their job and managers should look to ease that pressure. SD also raised concerns around the ICB restructure and the likely impact for families. These issues can lead to reduced capacity of staff to fulfil roles and Board need to ensure they have oversight of these challenges. LH agreed there are challenges around resources and deployment and that Board need to have a clear understanding of what needs to change and to enable and lever change.

MM agreed with the key message and consideration needs to be given to what the partnership are doing to enable that. The strategic action plan should help the area manage the above and support a proactive position. Ongoing reporting to scrutiny is needed but in a proactive rather than reactive way.

The review and current structure of groups will include how the Education Board links to strategic work and helps to deliver the offer to improve outcomes and experiences for children and young people. The Board would seek support from JM and AW by seeking clarity where work led by schools will sit and who could take it forward. For example, which Board or subgroup could lead on outcomes for children on SEN support. There is a need to integrate and embed SEND activity as business as usual in school performance reporting, so that SEND outcomes and performance measures are brought to a higher level.

	<p>The 6 inspection recommendations will be weaved into the updated Strategic action plan. This will set out ongoing improvement activity and will focus on year 1 / 2 / 3 deliverables to align with the inspection in 3 years' time.</p> <p>MM and LH are working with service leads on drawing together the action plan before a planned meeting will take place with DfE leaders to discuss and approve it before it is published (30 days from the date of publication of the Inspection report).</p> <p>Board agreed the plan should be high level; setting out expectations on partners to help deliver improvements. There is challenge on having meaningful engagement and there is limited time to engage and feedback with Board on the draft plan. Agreement was given to sharing the draft action plan with Board members for comment before it is finalised with leaders making adjustments where required. Assurance was given that the plan is agile, with ongoing review and development and underpinning detail sitting with Board.</p> <p>Agreement that there will be a more detailed discussion at next Board meeting and the finalised action plan will be presented to the HWBB in September.</p>
11.20	<p>6. Risk Log</p> <p>GB provided updates to the SEND Partnership risk log.</p> <p>Of notable risk is the ongoing vacancies across the Educational Psychology team and the impact this is having on meeting statutory timescales and KPI's for EHC needs assessment despite mitigations in place.</p> <p>The risks associated with the ICB reorganisation are also flagged to Board and have been covered in item 5.</p> <p>CMc advised that Ross Gerrie is leaving the ICS. He is an experienced SEND champion and leaves a gap in the system that will feel the loss of his knowledge and expertise. CMc formally thanked Ross on behalf of Board for his contribution adding he will be sorely missed.</p> <p>GB added that Margaret Wall imminently leaves the SEND Team and although this also creates a gap in expertise and knowledge there has been successful recruitment to the role.</p> <p>Board requested a revised risk log for the next Board taking into account what is added to the strategic action plan.</p> <p>MM asked for consideration to be given to where the risk log is sighted in future; this Board or other governance group.</p>
11.26	<p>7. Voice of the Child</p> <p>CMc felt Board needed to reignite the work that Jeff Banks initially started 2 years ago. The area partnership has not had any clear direction on how this is to be achieved and it needs to be brought back into focus by looking at where the partnership currently is and the aims.</p> <p>CMc understands that Julie Lannon ABSS has offered to step forward and lead, as she has a specific remit for SEND engagement in A Better Start Southend. TP added that Julie is proposed as her proxy lead as she has greater capacity for this work. MM noted Julie was not a member of Board but acknowledged her membership at SENDOPS.</p> <p>CMc suggests further conversations on what the options are, what adds value and what can be done effectively. She proposes that options are presented to a future board for consideration.</p>

There was challenge if Voice of the Child needed a lead at Board or should this be considered as business as usual, as to date CJ's team do a lot of work with young people's engagement.

PJ felt that there should be a lead at Board to ensure work is undertaken in a responsible and accountable way, but also that it is delivered. There needs to be a much stronger commitment to Voice of the Child across the partnership.

LH queried if in the Board Terms of Reference there are specific and identified leads for workstreams. Voice of the Child is critical for scrutiny but consideration needs to be given to whether this is an operational or a Board function and how Board could have oversight. It was queried if things were brought to Board too early and perhaps the tracking and mapping of feedback activities might be missing. This can be considered in more detail when reviewing governance of the area partnership.

CMc agreed Board must have strategic overview and assurance of the themes are coming through Voice work and agreed this could come via SENDOPS then redirected to Board. The area partnership must however capitalise and ensure Voice work is brought under one umbrella and systematically reported to the area partnership.

CC agreed this work seems to sit best at an operational level but there is a need to draw together Voice of the Child across partners. CC volunteered to be the Board lead for this and have further discussions with colleagues.

MM accepted the proposal for CC to lead and to work with closely and Julie and other colleagues to ensure inclusion of wider engagement for children and young people in the SEN support system.

LH suggested work on the Terms of Reference is also undertaken to consider lead members for workstream and their roles and responsibility.

CMc hoped this discussion would give Board assurance this will be taken forward.

Board agreed to close action 89 and agreed the ToR will be reviewed and updated with leads as appropriate.

CMc then provided an overview of how the ICB have undertaken engagement with young people. There have been a number of engagement pieces of work; the Traverse work identified with young people how best to engage with them and their families. This work was later taken on by the Multi School Council (MSC) and a framework was developed and shared with partners.

The ICB continues to seek support from the MSC and note they have also been commissioned by NHSE at regional and national level. There is a commitment in the ICB to develop a Youth Council and Charter and they want to link with Southend youth council.

Additionally, there is ring fenced health inequalities money to support training needs for effective engagement with neurodiverse and harder to reach young people and their families.

KR recalled there was some agreement for dedicated practitioner resource for Voice of the Child from the written statement of action but is not aware Southend delivered on that and it is needed locally. KR referenced some key learning from Manchester LA on this and agreed to share this with the group.

PJ questioned if the area partnership could add resource to the current youth participation team but also build strong links to MSC who are forging ahead with participation and engagement of SEND children and young people across Essex and other LA's.

LH confirmed that conversations have taken place with GB and CJ on the potential scope to take forward proposals. **Action:** The SEND Scrum were requested to put together a proposal for consideration that

	<p>utilises existing structures, builds internal capacity but encompasses links with the MSC which are of value.</p> <p>Of note LH recently met the Deputy Major who is a young person with SEND. It is essential the partnership look to empower existing structures in this piece of work.</p>
11.52	<p>8. SEND Operations Group highlight report</p> <p>Gary Bloom provided a verbal update on the SENDOPS highlight report. No questions were raised.</p>
11.57	<p>9. Any other business</p> <p>GB advised that interim service manager Chinwe Nwofor was leaving in early July as Laura Tolley returns from maternity leave.</p> <p>CMc advised that a new Special educational needs in England release has been published on Explore Education Statistics and provided the link https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fexplore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk%2Ffind-statistics%2Fspecial-educational-needs-in-england%2F2022-23&data=05%7C01%7Ccaroline.mccarron2%40nhs.net%7Cefbcaf80a7704d15248f08db72faf37d%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638230194409647727%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dYmpGxvA2eW1Z9qJgEx9Dqu9UPTnla181xKcilrvntg%3D&reserved=0</p> <p>MM noted and acknowledged that Elaine Hammans the retired head of early years at Southend-on-Sea City Council has been awarded an MBE for Services to Education; adding this was recognition of her hard work and commitment which was pleasing to see.</p>
12.00	Close
Future meetings: TBC	

Attendance				
	Name	Job Title	Organisation	
Chair	Michael Marks	Executive Director, Public Health and Children's Services	Southend City Council	MM
	Amanda Wiley	Primary School Head Representative	Blenheim Primary School	AW
	Liz Hunt	Director of Education, Inclusion and Early Years	Southend City Council	LH
	Maria Crowley	Interim Director Children, Mental Health & Neurodiversity.	Mid & South Essex ICS	
	Caroline McCarron	Deputy Alliance Director	Mid & South Essex ICS	CMc
	Gary Bloom	Head of SEND	Southend City Council	GB

Members	Jackie Mullan	Special School Head Representative	SEN Trust Southend	JM
	Samantha Delve	Secretary	Southend SEND Indep. Forum	SD
	Philomena Johnson	Interim Chair	Southend SEND Indep.Forum	PJ
	Krishna Ramkhelawon	Director of Public Health	Southend City Council	KR
	Tara Poore	Director	A Better Start Southend	TP
	Carol Compton	Head of Service Integration, Youth and Family Services	Southend City Council	CC
	Owen Richards	Chief Officer	Healthwatch	OR
Apologies	Lissa-Marie Minnis	Children's Social Work Director	Southend City Council	L-MM
	Stephan Leibrecht	Head Adult Social Care	Southend City Council	SL
Guest	Julie Lannon	Programme Manager	A Better Start Southend	JL
Administration	Carron Jacobs	SEND Project Officer	Southend City Council	CJ