



Mid and South Essex
Integrated Care
System



Southend-on-Sea
City Council

Southend SEND Area Partnership

Update: *Report to People Scrutiny*

February 2024

Context

Since the inspection

Public Service budgets continue to be under significant pressure with restructures and savings impacting directly and indirectly across the partnership. These reflect national concerns.

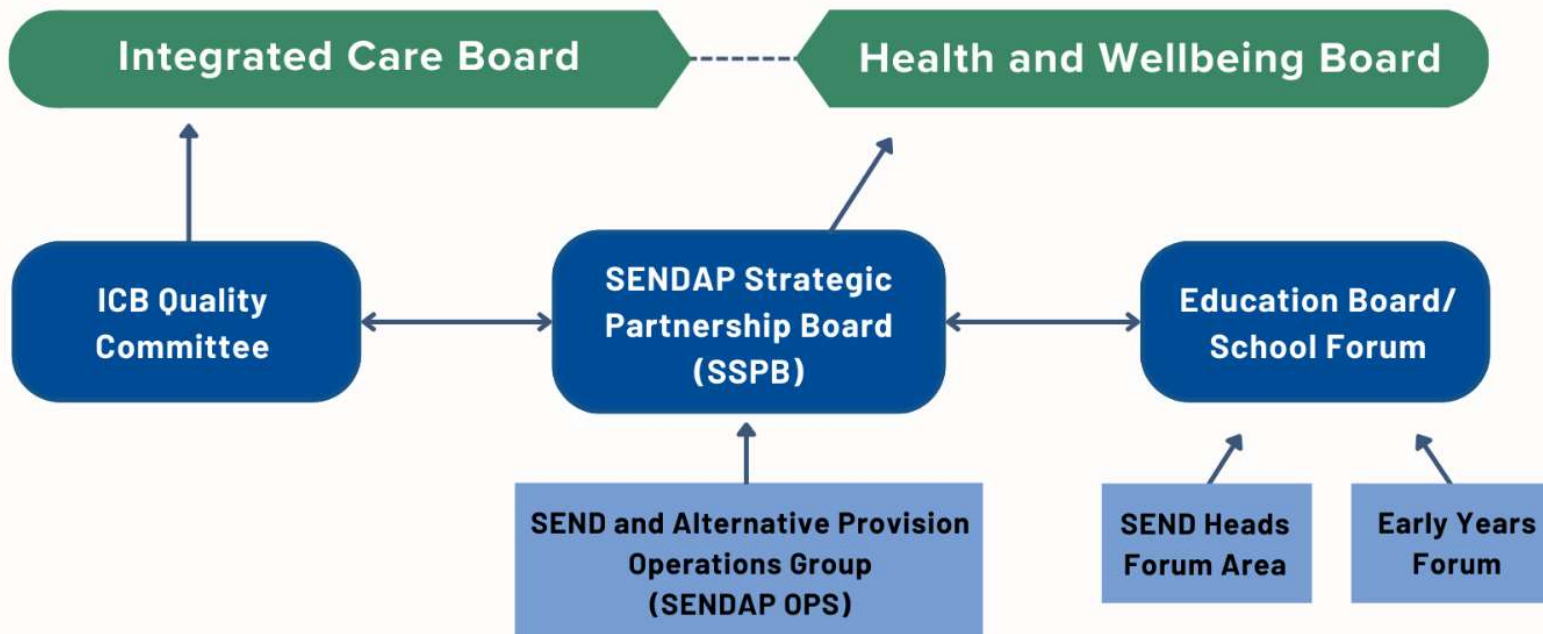
- ▶ Re-structure of Council Education Services agreed including an enhanced integrated EY service, development of specialist teaching and school support services and a SEND/AP management structure.
- ▶ Restructure of ICB concluded with retention of SEND leads following consultation
- ▶ School budgets continue to be under pressure. Increase in demand for EHC Plans and subsequent pressure on assessment services and provision. Statutory timescales challenged due to shortage of EPs. Special School and Area Resource places under pressure. RACC in Kingsdown impact on expansion.

Key actions

- ▶ Recovery plan in place for EPS with successful recruitment of PEP and SEPs.
- ▶ Increased Investment in Early Intervention and SEND Education. Mainstream Schools have received an additional £2.5 million for inclusion support this academic year.
- ▶ Area Partnership Strategy and Strategic Action Plan shared across Southend Community with a positive response from key stakeholders
- ▶ SEND Network for parent/carers involvement launched and positively received

Governance

Southend SENDAP Partnership



Post Inspection Strategic Action Plan

- ▶ Published 21st July 2023
- ▶ 45 actions over 6 recommendations
- ▶ Leads and resources identified.
- ▶ Tracking monthly in operations group
- ▶ Communicated widely at the SEND Network event 6 October 2023
- ▶ Milestones for 4 month, 8 month and then yearly
- ▶ Biannual reporting of progress against the Area SEND Strategic Action Plan to Health & Wellbeing Board and People Scrutiny Committee
- ▶ 6 monthly reporting to MSE ICB Quality Committee for oversight, governance and assurance on the delivery against the strategic action plan

Recommendation 1 Leaders in education, health and social care are empowered to drive forward improvements at pace so that the Southend SEND Partnership strategy impacts positively on the experiences and outcomes of all children and young and people with SEND.

On Track

- ▶ Revised governance arrangements in place with clearer functions for reporting and tracking progress
- ▶ Area Partnership Board Membership revised to ensure leaders in Health, Education and Social Care are held to account and track progress
- ▶ Biannual reporting to Health and Well-Being Board with greater stakeholder engagements through SEND Forum, SEND Network and Educational Strategy Group
- ▶ Iterative design of the partnership SEF developed to reflect SEND and AP integrated system
- ▶ ICB review complete and restructure in progress. Maintained ICB roles with SEND and children's agenda identified.

Recommendation 2 The local area partnership should evaluate the quality and impact of services and joint working more effectively, to inform improvements that lead to better outcomes and experiences for children and young people with SEND

- ▶ Data Analysis on educational outcomes in place
- ▶ Improvement initiatives on Track
- Relational Practice training offer provided to all schools, parents and carers and professionals in Childrens Services. 50% (26) of Southend schools have engaged since September 2023. Embedding trauma informed approaches will strengthen inclusive practice across our city. Maureen Mckenna presented to all Heads in the city.
- 3 Alternative Provision (AP) Pilots commissioned
- 8 additional Southend Schools with Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs), (phase 2 Wave 11)
- Risk stratification and process determined for children and young people at risk of admission to a mental health inpatient setting through effective partnership working. Young people's needs will be met by a multi-disciplinary team in the community
- Better quality information in Yr9 Annual Reviews provided by schools, supporting effective Preparation for Adulthood planning

In place for delivery 2024

- Central Specialist Teaching Service to deliver individual support in schools and to settings delivery 2024
- Speech and Language Central Support project to provide early identification and effective support for children and young people with SLCN in mainstream schools

Recommendation 3 local area partnership leaders should improve the effectiveness of joint working to support the co-production of EHC plans and annual reviews so that at each stage the provision that is planned takes full account of children's and young people's current and changing needs.

- ▶ Statutory timescales for new assessments significantly impacted by EPS staffing.
- ▶ Recovery Programme Plan and Annual Review Programme Tracker produced and shared with SENDAP Operations Group.
- ▶ Recruitment and retention scheme for EP Service revised and implemented. Recruited PEP and SEPs. Additional recruitment of Assistants and Trainees in progress.
- ▶ EP locum and backlog recovery team in place
- ▶ Two rounds of recruitment of SEN Recovery Officers complete – 7 of 8 additional officers appointed to deliver annual review recovery plan
- ▶ CWD reviewing all the CSC care packages and assessment of need to inform planning and ensure appropriate input into plans.
- ▶ Initial meeting of EHC Multi-Agency quality assurance group determined group membership, who are adapting framework from another Local Authority.

Recommendation 4 Local area partnership leaders should ensure that they share accurate data across health, education and social care to support rigorous and effective self-evaluation and inform joint commissioning.

- ▶ The development of a joint dashboard needs further work at pace.
- ▶ SCC data from education which is being shared through the SENDAP Operations group and informs further discussions is positive
- ▶ JSNA on track with phase 1 draft scheduled by feb.
- ▶ Data currently being reported from specialist community and mental health services identified, with BI leads from across the health system working to share through a central repository
- ▶ Health dashboard developer instructed and commencing build, initially focused on data already reported
- ▶ Gaps and further metrics identified. Data Quality Improvement Plans (DQUIP) will be required to ensure timely and accurate reporting from health providers

Recommendation 5 The local area partnership should ensure that appropriate support is in place from health services for children and young people who are awaiting health needs assessments, so that early intervention reduces the risk of any escalation of concern.

- ▶ Specialist community health provider has ensured that service web pages have information about routes to referrals, assessment and treatment pathways as well as resources to provide support and advice whilst waiting for assessment
- ▶ In line with the MSE ICB Joint Forward Plan, a task & finish group was established and has now completed an all-age Neurodiversity demand and capacity review
- ▶ Services continue to strengthen and develop following transfer in 2021. Waiting times for ASD assessment have reduced to approximately 52 weeks despite increasing demand
- ▶ Work on pre and post diagnostic assessment support is progressing.
 - ▶ The Lighthouse ASD team are now hosting a series of post-diagnosis support group sessions across a wide range of community venues
 - ▶ Work continues with the development of The Essex Autism Project with CYP, parents, carers and professionals involved
 - ▶ Regular sharing of additional service and support via Southend SEND newsletter
- ▶ MSE Health SEND Champions forum formed and beginning work on training needs analysis

Recommendation 6 The local area partnership should make sure that parents and carers and professionals receive clear and reliable information about how to access the range of support and services that are available

- ▶ 29 nominations for SEND community champions received.
- ▶ 1834 Subscribers to the SEND Partnership newsletter
- ▶ New Livewell platform (Local Offer) went live in June 2023. 3 feedback and co-design sessions for held.
- ▶ Half termly Your Local Offer Your Way sessions and participants have supported amends to 29 pages and created 5 new pages on the Local Offer.
- ▶ The Local Offer feedback survey reported greater satisfaction
- ▶ The SE7 evaluation framework of the local offer is an internal tool identifying completeness of information. Of 85 aspects, (76%) were rated as either developed or well developed with 24% requiring more development.
- ▶ 14 SEND Surgeries held .64 parent-carers have attended. 76.5% completed feedback sheets and of the 47 people who answered the question of whether the surgery was helpful, 100% said yes.

Recommendation 6 The local area partnership should make sure that parents and carers and professionals receive clear and reliable information about how to access the range of support and services that are available

- ▶ The SEND Network event in October 23 provided an opportunity for the SEND Partnership to share the strategic plan and strategy. The event was attended by 78 people. 55 of which were parents/carers
- ▶ SEND Network launched. 29 organisations joined to date. Next Network event scheduled for March 2024
- ▶ Feedback obtained at SEND Network event shaped a project plan scoping out the development of 11 roadmaps.
- ▶ The first 3 roadmaps are being developed in conjunction with SSIF Seminars between February – June 2024, on track for 30% overall roadmap completion by July.
- ▶ The PCF & Local Offer team refined and completed the SEND co production charter, which sits as an appendix to the Terms of Reference to the Strategic Partnership Board