

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Agenda Item no. 6(a)

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

DATE	Wednesday 13 th December 2017
TITLE OF REPORT	<u>The SEND Reforms and the Local Area SEND Inspection</u>
Organisation and Author	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Lorraine Stephen, Interim Lead for SEND and Special Schools
Purpose of the report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To inform Board members of the key challenges currently identified in implementing the SEND Reforms 2. To inform Board members what we are doing to address them 3. To help Board members prepare to be able to articulate their contribution, as well as that of their organisations, to the embedding of the reforms during a Local Area SEND Inspection
Key points to note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ofsted/CQC Local Area SEND Inspection framework expects Health and Wellbeing Boards to be in receipt of regular reports on SEND • The inspection involves partners who contribute to the SEND agenda across the geographical area of Dudley, not just Dudley Council • To help prepare for the inspection, arrangements are in place for a team of Peer Reviewers to spend the week of 22nd January 2018 looking at key aspects of our SEND Reform implementation work • The ongoing work on the implementation and embedding of the reforms is overseen by the SEND Reform Implementation Board, which has a governance structure leading up to the Health and Wellbeing Board (enclosed) • The Board's SEND Reform Implementation Plan is currently being refreshed to include a wider range of partners and perspectives. It has 7 priority areas of work that have been aligned as far as possible to the governance structure.
Recommendations for the Board	<p>That Board members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use this paper, the documents enclosed and the presentation as a background briefing on the reforms • Report back to their organisations the work that is being undertaken through the SEND Reform Implementation Improvement Plan • Feed back to Lorraine Stephen actions being undertaken/that

	<p>will be undertaken by their respective organisations to be incorporated into the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to receive an annual update report from the Children and Young People’s Alliance Board on progress towards achieving the outcomes within the Plan
Item type	
H&WB strategy priority area	

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

DATE 13th December 2017

REPORT OF: The interim Chair of the SEND Reform Implementation Board

TITLE: The SEND Reforms and the Local Area SEND

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Board members of the key challenges currently identified in implementing the SEND Reforms.

To inform Board members what we are doing to address them

To help Board members prepare to be able to articulate their contribution, as well as that of their organisations, to the embedding of the reforms during a Local Area SEND Inspection or Peer Review.

2. BACKGROUND

From May 2016, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) began inspecting how local areas are meeting their responsibilities to disabled children and young people, and those with special educational needs (SEND) under Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

The purpose of the inspection is to secure an independent evaluation of how well the local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with SEND in order to improve their outcomes.

Although the local area is the geographical area of the Local Authority, the inspection is not just evaluating the local authority. The local area includes key partners from across it who should be working together to ensure that the educational, health and social care needs of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND are effectively identified, assessed and met so that their outcomes are improved. There is a focus on co-productive working, personalisation and preparation for adulthood from the early years.

The Local Government Association has trained a set of SEND Peer Reviewers from across the country and commissions them with local authorities to provide an opportunity for an external and critical view of the self-evaluation and progress currently being made in key aspects of our journey towards fully implementing and embedding the reforms. Team members will include an Assistant Director of Specialist Services, a Senior Nurse, a Headteacher of a Special school and a Peer

Associate with a background in Social Care and Disability. The visit will take place in the week of 22nd January and most of it will take place over 4 days. The review themes are:

- Leadership and governance of SEND across the local area
- Capacity and resources (including Finance)
- The identification of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- Assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- Improving outcomes for children & young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities

The SEND Reform Implementation Board, which reports to the Children and Young People's Alliance Board, has been meeting on a monthly basis since the work on preparing to introduce the reforms began. Its key purpose is to ensure it functions and performs as the Strategic Group with responsibility for children and young people with SEND in Dudley and fully achieves the core aims and membership requirements as set out in the Board Terms of Reference.

The SEND Reform Implementation Board has oversight of the work being carried out across the local area to embed the required legislative changes and bring about improved outcomes for the children and young people.

We are doing well in a number of areas including:

- Sustained improvements in the % of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) completed within the 20 week deadline
- We are on target to meet the 31st March 2018 deadline for converting all our statements of SEN to EHCPs
- The parent carer forum is very strong and engage in meaningful co-production
- Feedback on the Local Offer has been used to completely revamp it. The new version was launched on 1st December.
- Good engagement from Colleges and Adult Social Care Services in the preparing for adulthood work
- Elected members are increasingly becoming aware of their roles and responsibilities under the new legislation

However, a number of areas continue to need further development. These are addressed through the Dudley All Area SEND Improvement Plan 2017-19. The Plan has been developed to form the basis of the priority areas of work that fall within the remit of the SEND Improvement Board. Most priority areas have an operational/delivery group that reports progress to the Board. The work plan outlined in the document has been aligned to the SEND Improvement Board governance structure (enclosure).

1. Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), allocated to the EHCP Task and Finish Group
2. Joint Commissioning
3. The Local Offer, allocated to the Local Offer Champions Group
4. Preparing for Adulthood, allocated to the Transition Task Group (renamed Preparing for Adulthood Group)
5. Children in Specific Circumstances
6. Workforce and Development, allocated to the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board
7. Co-Production, allocated to the Dudley Parent Carer Forum

3. FINANCE

The work being undertaken to implement the Reforms is currently being funded mainly through the DfE SEN Burdens Fund Grant. There is no certainty of the continuation of this grant beyond March 2018. It has mainly been used to fund temporary additional staff to support the SEN Assessment Team and Educational Psychology Service with some of the extra work related to the transfer of children and young people from SEN statements to ECPs.

The budgetary requirement will be reassessed once the LA is advised of the DfE's intentions in respect of the SEN Burdens Fund Grant strategy after 2017/18.

4. LAW

The contents of this report and the documents it refers to are based on the guidance published by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in April 2016 regarding the framework for the inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. It is also based on the guidance in the SEND Code of Practice: 0 – 25, 2014, published by the DfE.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT

This paper is for information and is not for decision, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out, however, all the changes required by the new legislation are designed to bring improved experiences, outcomes and life chances to children and young people with SEND and their families and is complementary to the Equality Act 2010 and other related laws. The risk of it having a negative impact on any person with a protected characteristic is therefore extremely low. Whilst this report focuses on SEND, other protected characteristics, including gender, race and religion, are equally relevant in terms of children and young people with SEND and their families.

There will not be an effect on children and young people directly but the Local Area SEND inspection outcome will potentially have a strategic impact on children and young people with SEND. The Local Area SEND inspection process and the LGA

Peer Review will involve children and young people with SEND and their views will inform the outcome of both visits.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Board members:

- Use this paper, the documents enclosed and the presentation as a background briefing on the reforms. The SEND Self Evaluation Report gives further details of the most recent self evaluation. The SEND Inspection Report gives further details of the inspection regime.
- Report back to their organisations the work that is being undertaken through the SEND Reform Implementation Improvement Plan
- Feed back to Lorraine Stephen actions being undertaken/that will be undertaken by their respective organisations to be incorporated into the Plan
- Agree to receive an annual update report from the Children and Young People's Alliance Board on progress towards achieving the outcomes within the Plan

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