

Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

SEND Update on progress against the Written Statement of Action (WSOA)

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Purpose of the Report

On the 16th October 2018 the Overview and Scrutiny Board was provided with a detailed update on Oldham's progress against its Written Statement of Action (WSOA) in relation to the SEND Inspection by Ofsted & Care Quality Commission (CQC) in October 2017. As requested by the Board this report provides a progress update since the last meeting and the current position with reference to the WSOA. The report also contains information on some key related areas of work as requested by the Board at the last meeting.

Executive Summary

As the Board will be aware Oldham has been subject to bi-monthly joint monitoring/support meetings from the DfE/NHS England in relation to its progress against the WSOA. The outcome of the last meeting in September 2018 was very positive with confirmation of the forward direction of travel and continuous improvements made across all areas of the WSOA. It was agreed that 4 of the 5 priority areas of the WSOA are RAG rated 'Green' with recognition of the work being progressed on the remaining 'Amber' priority area in relation to Education Health Care Plans.

Given changes in the Inspection process by Ofsted all local areas with a WSOA for SEND will now have 'revisit' (re-Inspection), which for Oldham is anticipated to take place anytime from March 2019 onwards. As a result Oldham's bi-monthly meetings with the DfE/NHS England will continue and Oldham will now not receive a letter from the Minister on its progress against the WSOA until after its revisit.

Recommendations

To note the contents of this report and provide any further comments.

SEND Update on progress against the Written Statement of Action (WSOA)**1 Background**

- 1.1 Given the SEND Inspection by Ofsted & Care Quality Commission (CQC) in October 2017 and subsequent submission of a Written Statement of Action (WSOA), Oldham has been subject to bi-monthly joint monitoring/support meetings with the DfE/NHS England. These meetings have focused on Oldham's progress against the WSOA with 5 meetings having taken place to date.
- 1.2 The outcome of the last bi-monthly meeting in September 2018, following submission of progress, was very positive with confirmation of the forward direction of travel and continuous improvements made across all areas of the WSOA. It was agreed that 4 of the 5 priority areas of the WSOA are RAG rated 'Green' with recognition of the work being progressed on the remaining 'Amber' priority Area 3 in relation to Education Health Care Plans. The DfE/NHS England acknowledged that there is clear and accountable ownership of the SEND agenda across the local SEND Partnership with commitment and continued focus on SEND from senior leaders. The involvement and engagement of parents and carers in the SEND governance structure in ensuring a truly collaborative and co-productive system was also acknowledged.
- 1.3 Further to the detailed report provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 16th October 2018, this report provides a further update on progress since the last meeting and the current position with reference to the WSOA. This report also contains information on some key related areas of work as requested by the Board at the last meeting.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 As detailed in the last update to the Board, Oldham's progress against the following priority areas of concern highlighted in the October 2017 Inspection was reviewed by the DfE/NHS England at the last bi-monthly meeting in September 2018 with each RAG rated as;
- Area 1: Potential non statutory compliance - **GREEN**
 - Area 2: Effective Leadership - **GREEN**
 - Area 3: EHC Process and improvement of the quality of EHC Plans - **AMBER/GREEN**
 - Area 4: Transport - **GREEN**
 - Area 5: Attainment, attendance, exclusions - **GREEN**
- 2.2 The DfE/NHS England recognised the work being progressed on the 'AMBER/GREEN' priority Area 3, particularly in relation to the timeliness of Education Health Care Plans within the 20 week statutory timescale. Since the last Overview and Scrutiny Board significant progress has been made with reference to the timeliness of issuing of plans with January 2019's figure being 100% (the DfE published national average is 64%) with a similar figure predicted for February 2019. This has resulted due to a more robust process being put in place to ensure that assessments are completed and plans issued within the required timeframe. There has also been the addition of permanent staffing capacity within the SEND Service with a clear focus on prioritising the timeliness of plans as well as quality.

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- 2.3 The meeting with the DfE/NHS England in September 2018 was anticipated to be the final bi-monthly meeting prior to the DfE submitting its report on Oldham's progress against the WSOA to the Minister for consideration and response by letter to the Council/CCG. However the DfE announced in November 2018 on changes to the Inspection process by Ofsted including proposed 'revisits' to local areas with a WSOA for SEND. The DfE has now confirmed that as a result of this, Oldham will now not receive a letter from the Minister on its progress against the WSOA until after its revisit (re-Inspection), which is anticipated to take place later this year. A working group within the current SEND Governance Structure has already been established to focus on the preparations for the revisit.
- 2.4 As part of the new process Oldham's bi-monthly monitoring/support meetings with the DfE/NHS England will also continue until the revisit has taken place. As such a meeting is scheduled for 23rd January 2019 as a continuation of these and will focus on priority Area 3 which will include the quality and timeliness of EHC Plans and the preparation for the revisit by Ofsted/CQC.
- 2.5 In light of this Oldham's focus on the WSOA for SEND will continue.

Update on key related areas of work as requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Board at the last meeting on 16th October 2018

- 2.6 A Voice of the Child corporate strategy, which includes SEND, has been developed with various forms of engagement and involvement with children and young people already taking place across numerous services. Work to deliver the strategy will be coordinated under each of the agreed objectives set within the document. Communications plans for each area of activity will be developed to ensure we meet identified outcomes. The objectives within the Voice of the Child corporate strategy include:
- Making sure that every child and young person, who would not traditionally engage with the local authority, can access information and support when they need it.
 - Reviewing current organisational approaches to service delivery, how they may or may not involve young people within their planning process and ensure that they include an approach where the 'voice' is fed back and acted upon, where appropriate.
 - Engaging with staff, local leaders and partners to ensure they understand their actions impacts on the perceptions of Oldham from a children and young person (both at home and in work).
- 2.7 The November 2018 contract report on waiting times for intervention with reference to the Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) demonstrates 100% compliance with the key performance indicators of: referrals screened within 24 hours; and first contact within 12 weeks of referral. This is as a result of the model in place whereby a Healthy Young Minds Co-ordinator is situated in the Early Help hub. This ensures appropriate triage of referrals and that early interventions can be swiftly implemented from a wide range of community and school based services.
- 2.8 The percentage of young people with Education and Health Care Plans in Oldham compared to statistical neighbouring and GM authorities is provided below:

Jan 2018 SEN2 figures

Stat Neighbours	Statement	EHCP	S & EHCP	ONS Mid Year estimates 0-25	% of SEN as ONS
Oldham	255	1463	1718	79000	2.2%
Middlesbrough	152	985	1137	48100	2.4%
Bolton	214	1853	2067	90900	2.3%
Rochdale	181	1418	1599	69600	2.3%
Tameside	93	884	977	66500	1.5%
Blackburn with Darwen	24	752	776	51100	1.5%
Bradford	318	2981	3299	187400	1.8%
Kirklees	220	2235	2455	138900	1.8%
Derby	627	1056	1683	85800	2.0%
Dudley	160	1487	1647	92700	1.8%
Walsall	317	1430	1747	90400	1.9%
Statistical Neighbours	2561	16544	19105	1000400	1.9%

GM	Statement	EHCP	S & EHCP	ONS Mid Year estimates 0-25	% of SEN as ONS
Oldham	255	1463	1718	79000	2.2%
Bolton	214	1853	2067	90900	2.3%
Bury	112	1367	1479	56600	2.6%
Manchester	105	3571	3676	210900	1.7%
Rochdale	181	1418	1599	69600	2.3%
Salford	33	1759	1792	80500	2.2%
Stockport	174	1953	2127	82500	2.6%
Tameside	93	884	977	66500	1.5%
Trafford	121	1474	1595	70900	2.2%
Wigan	139	1541	1680	91700	1.8%
GM	1427	17283	18710	899100	2.1%

- 2.9 In order to enable members of the Board to engage with Children and Families, all members of Overview and Scrutiny are invited to attend the SEND Event on Sunday 3 February 2019, 12-3pm at the Oasis Academy School. This will be a real opportunity for informal feedback, engagement and consultation with parents, carers, children & young people and local residents on a range of SEND related services for multi-agencies and partners.

3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- 3.1 How can the Board support the work of the local SEND Partnership in improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Oldham?

4 Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider

- 4.1 Is there anything the Board would like the local SEND Partnership to consider in preparation for the revisit (re-Inspection)?

5. **Links to Corporate Outcomes**

- 5.1 The SEND agenda fits within all of the Council's corporate outcomes of;
- An Inclusive Economy where people and enterprise thrive;
 - Thriving Communities where everyone is empowered to do their bit;
 - Co-operative Services with people and social value at their heart.

6 **Additional Supporting Information**

6.1 N/A

7 **Consultation**

7.1 N/A

8 **Appendices**

8.1 N/A