



Health and Wellbeing Board

Tuesday 26 June 2018

Ofsted/CQC Inspection and Progress on Written Statement of Action (WSOA) May/June 2018

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Oldham's vision is to be a place where children and young people will thrive. This will be demonstrated by children and young people with SEND achieving well in their early years, at school and in further education, finding employment, leading happy, healthy and fulfilled lives and having choice and control over their support

General Update

- In October 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), conducted a joint Inspection of Oldham to judge its effectiveness in implementing the disability and special educational needs (SEN) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. Although this outlined areas of strength/further improvement it was determined that a joint Written Statement of Action is submitted to Ofsted because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice.
- A joint Written Statement of Action (WSOA) from the LA/CCG was produced with input from key partners and submitted to Ofsted on 2 March 2018.
- WSOA approved by Ofsted - 22 March 2018. Ofsted noted that the statement of action could be further improved by having clearer outcomes and this has been responded to.
- The WSOA was published on the Oldham SEND Local Offer on 23 March 2018.
- In line with a WSOA the LA and CCG are subject to joint Bi-Monthly Monitoring and Support reviews from the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE).
- 3 joint review meetings have been held in Dec18, Mar18 and May18 with DfE and NHSE to review progress against the WSOA. Further meetings are due in Jul18 and Sep18.
- In Oct18 DfE will submit a report to the Minister detailing progress within Oldham. This report will also recommend whether progress against the WSOA is sufficient for ongoing oversight from DfE and NHSE to cease.

Priority 1: Potential non statutory compliance

- Oldham is confident it is compliant with relevant statutory duties through robust governance structure now in place, ensuring all families receive a legally compliant, timely service.
- All Schools have now confirmed that they are following the appropriate Fixed Term and Permanent exclusion procedures. There are regular meetings held between the Director of Education, Head of Learning and Head of Access and Inclusion with the Primary and Secondary Heads where the issues of Permanent, Fixed Term and Part time Exclusions are discussed at each meeting.
- SENDIASS are collating any evidence of exclusion including potential illegal practice brought to their attention as a result of contacts from parents and cares. This is then shared on an anonymised basis with the LA. This compliments the data held by the LA and allows for further challenge and scrutiny of exclusion data.
- A new Quality Assurance role is being established as part of the SEN Assessment Service restructure. This role will be managed within the Independent Reviewing Officer Service and together with a new role of Health Co-ordinator will allow for multi agency assessment of the quality of EHC plans.
- The LA's Home to School Transport Policy has been reviewed, made compliant and published on Oldham's Local Offer. The Transport T&F Workstream is now looking at making the Policy more ambitious.

Priority 2: Effective Leadership of the reforms

- The SEND Transformation Assurance Board (TAB), set up in light of the WSOA, is continuing to meet fortnightly in order to oversee the implementation of the new governance framework. The SEND Partnership Board now chaired by Cllr P Jacques as Lead Member has met Mar18 and Jun18 and will continue to meet bi-monthly and assume the role of TAB in due course. The Deputy Chair of the Board is Andrew Robinson from POINT.
- The monthly SEND Management Group, chaired by the Interim Director of Children's Services, Merlin Joseph has met on 30 Apr18, 22 May18 and 18 Jun18 and reports progress to the Partnership Board.
- The CCG has appointed a new interim Executive Nurse (Quality & Safeguarding), Linda Collins-Izquierdo who has the lead role for SEND on behalf of the CCG and who will assume a vice chair role of the SEND Management Group.
- Parent carer representation across the SEND governance framework / structure is in place including within the SEND Task & Finish Workstreams which are all now established and meeting regularly with a focus on improvement.
- The LA has appointed Shirley Woods-Gallagher as Assistant Director (SEND) to lead on SEND within LA and with partners and is due to start at the end July18.

Priority 2: Effective Leadership of the reforms cont'd

- The use of SEND Reform Grant 2018/19 of £147k has been agreed for the following;
 - A Health Co-ordinator role with Pennine NHS Foundation Trust
 - Additional Teaching Assistant support via the Jigsaw Team to support children at SEN Support level in Primary Schools
 - To support the Task & Finish Workstreams
 - To support the Parent Carer Forum
- A multi agency Progress/Outcomes/Evidence/Risk Tracker has been developed for SEND Management Group. This will be supported by the LA updating Synergy and Mosaic IT systems to improve ICT/Data performance across Education and Early Years and Children's Social Care and Early Help. Additionally a SEND IT Tracker has been implemented in Pennine Care Provider Trust.

Priority 3: The EHC Process and improvement of the quality of EHC Plans

- The EHC process has been reviewed, new processes have been co-produced by LA/CCG with engagement from parent, carers and children & young people and these have been agreed and signed-off by the SEND Management Group for implementation.
- A Task & Finish Workstream is in progress to improve the Annual Review process.
- Performance and quality assurance frameworks are being developed across the system to provide robust data and intelligence to support/ensure the quality of plans e.g. this includes the timeliness of EHCP's being identified as a target within the LA Corporate Plan.
- Early work is underway to develop a joint system for collecting, collating and evaluating the child/young person/parent carer experience.
- The role of Designated Medical Officer has been reviewed and an options paper was considered by the CCG. The model going forward will be of an enhanced Designated Clinical Officer role.
- A review of all specifications relating to commissioned health community providers has taken place and resulted in draft service variations, allied to this is an increased frequency of health reporting (monthly).

Priority 4: The Transport Policy which was judged not to be compliant in relation to children with SEND

- Transport Task & Finish Workstream met in May18 and Jun18 and is focused on developing an ambitious Transport policy that will:
 - Meet the needs of children and young people with SEND who require transport
 - Promote independence
 - Provide training and support to ensure consistency across the transport appeals process
 - Ensure robust and safe transport plans and provision including those with complex health needs
 - Review and refresh the Home to School Passenger assistant workforce
 - Allow for better management of the SEND Transport budget
- Robust system now in place to assess those children & young people with complex health needs.
- Annual evaluations take place to ensure packages of support meet needs.

Priority 5: Underachievement, fixed term exclusions and persistently absent levels

- A review of Alternative Provision is being led by Executive Heads of Oldham Special Schools, this will support children and young people at risk of exclusion by providing appropriate alternative options. Supporting this at a recent Secondary Heads meeting, a session (led by 2 Heads) was delivered on Permanent Exclusions and the law.
- The current Education Performance Dashboard and the new SEND Performance Dashboard have been aligned. Intelligence on SEND issues is being shared with School Improvement Partners (SIPs) and raised in meetings with Heads. Updates to the LA Synergy system (current IT system – formerly Tribal) will allow near real time recording and analysis of School attendance and exclusions.
- Challenging performance targets to raise attainment by 1% greater than national average have been agreed. To support progress the Education Dashboard is being shared with Primary and Secondary Heads, SIPs continue to challenge and support Heads in 1:1 meetings and the Oldham Learning Festival has been established.

Conclusion

The current bi-monthly report compiled by DfE following the latest monitoring meeting (May18) concludes that;

- 'Whilst it is not possible at this stage to show the impact on figures which are traditionally hard to shift, there is evidence that Oldham partners have, and are continuing to put in place, key elements of change which should, in the longer term lead to improvement. Research indicates that parents who receive their plans within timescale are much more satisfied so the already significantly improved trend with statutory timescales is critical for families and represents a real achievement at a time of needing to ensure that transfers were completed. Oldham also ensured all transfers were completed on time.'
- Oldham is rated as 'Amber' across all the 5 Priorities in terms of progress being made.

SEND Transformation Programme

Governance, Reporting and Accountability - May 2018

Governance Structure

