

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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

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Purpose of the Report

Health and Wellbeing Board have been receiving regular updates regarding Oldham's progress against its Written Statement of Action (WSOA) in relation to the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inspection by Ofsted & Care Quality Commission (CQC) in October 2017. As requested by the Board in September 2018, this report provides a detailed progress update and the current position with reference to the WSOA.

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 continued good progress being made in relation to SEND and note the contents of the report.

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 regular updates provided to Health and Wellbeing Board, 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 for information.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 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. 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 in 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.
- 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.

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 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).

2.6 In order to enable members of the Board to engage with Children and Families, all members of Health and Wellbeing Board 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 Health and Wellbeing Board 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 Health and Wellbeing Board 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