BRIEFING TO OLDHAM HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report Title: Update on SEND Activity Post Ofsted Inspection

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Date: 12th March 2018

Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board:
- To note the strengths and weaknesses highlighted within the SEND action plan.
- To note the actions outlined above and a recommendation to have a standing agenda item of the Health and Wellbeing Board’s agenda around SEND
- To note the relationships between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the SEND governance structure

Background:
In October 2017, Oldham underwent a joint inspection carried out by Ofsted and the CQC. The focus of the inspection was threefold:

1. Assessing the effectiveness of Oldham identifying children and young people’s special educational needs and/or disabilities
2. The effectiveness of Oldham in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND
3. The effectiveness of Oldham in improving outcomes for children and young people who have SEND

The purpose of this short paper is to give the Board is to provide a brief overview of the findings and provide an update on progress since the inspection and specifically around the five areas of weakness identified.

What the issue is (If any):

Areas of strength that were identified during the inspection included:
- The inspectors found the children and young people they met ‘inspiring’
- Children and young people reported that they felt safe and could identify a trusted adult to talk to if needed
- Many of Oldham’s frontline services are good
- Oldham has undertaken positive and sensitive commissioning
- Families benefit from an innovative and integrated early years offer
- Very few children are educated outside the borough
As a result of the inspection, Oldham was required to produce a written statement of action to Ofsted and the CQC outlining how we tackle 5 areas of significant weakness.

1. Potential non statutory compliance

Oldham remains alert to any potential non statutory compliance and activity to address concerns about the education, health and care plan (EHCP) process and transport policy is ongoing. Oldham is confident it is not acting outside of statutory regulations.

2. Effective Leadership

A Transformation Action Board (TAB) has been established to oversee the development of the WSOA and the development of the SEND governance structure. The revised SEND Partnership Board will be operational in March 2018 and a SEND Management Group has been established to oversee the work of the task and finish groups, this will report into the SEND Partnership Board. (A copy of the governance structure is attached as appendix one). The CCG has also identified named executive leads with overall accountability for the health and commissioning aspects of the SEND process.

3. The EHC Process and Quality of EHCP’s

Much work has been undertaken on reviewing and revising protocols and procedures to improve the quality of the EHC process and plans. This has included;

- A review and revision of the statutory assessment flow, this has included working with health and social care colleagues to map out the associated flows which sits alongside. As part of this work a single point of entry for health information is also being identified.
- A series of workshops in place to review and revise the EHCP annual review process to ensure it is meaningful, consistent, multi-agency and person centred.
- Work with social care to standardise how social care advice informs the statutory assessment process and the EHCP. Training has been delivered across children’s social care to embed this.
- Additional investment has been secured within social care to establish the short breaks team following on from the pilot phase.
- CDC have delivered multi-agency training day focused on outcomes in Oldham to a multi-agency group of over 70 practitioners and parents/carers

The process of converting remaining statements to EHCP’s will be completed by end of April 2018 and additional resource is being utilised to support this.

4. Oldham’s Home to School Transport Policy
The home to school transport policy will undergo major revision by September 2018. Decisions are now made primarily on the needs of individual children rather than distance criteria.

Children and young people with complex health needs who access transport will have individual health transport plans by the end of April 2018. All children accessing home to school transport will have individual transport plans by September 2018.

5. Underachievement, Fixed Term Exclusions and Persistent Absent Levels

This is a long term area of work where nationally comparable data will only be available on an annual basis by which to compare progress. Supporting actions to improve achievement include;

- Greater analysis of available data (see attached sheet) which will be enhanced by the appointment of a new Data modeler due to start April 2018;
- A revised Fair Access Panel process with the chair now being the Director of Education and Early Years;
- All Schools confirming that they follow existing permanent exclusion guidance (PEX) guidance
- Restructure of Council Education Services, including those supporting children at risk of exclusion
- Review of the pupil referral unit (PRU) provision

Oldham is committed to working in co-production with parents/carers, children and young people and these groups will be central to all the work undertaken within the SEND agenda.

The draft written statement of action (WSOA) has now been submitted to Ofsted by the 2nd March 2018 deadline. We are awaiting confirmation of sign off from Ofsted (within 10 working days of the submission). At this point the signed off WSOA can be shared with the Board.

Recommendations:
- To note the strengths and weaknesses highlighted within the SEND action plan.
- To note the actions outlined above and a recommendation to have a standing agenda item of the Health and Wellbeing Board’s agenda around SEND
- To note the relationships between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the SEND governance structure