



Health and Wellbeing Board

Tuesday 25 September 2018

Ofsted/CQC Inspection and Progress on Written Statement of Action (WSOA) July/Aug 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 Updates (L C-Izquierdo/M Joseph)

- Written Statement of Action (WSOA) approved by Ofsted in March 2018 was further improved with clearer outcomes and the amended version was re-published on the Oldham SEND Local Offer.
- A number of significant pieces of work which have been ongoing have now reached key progress markers:-
 - Oldham has an easy access WSOA Tracker to monitor progress across the areas of improvement. There is embedded evidence within the Tracker which is helpful for all parties and provides a valuable tool for Oldham partners. This was discussed in detail during the recent monitoring visit.
 - There is a comprehensive SEND dashboard with time taken to consult partners in developing this tool, which is now populated with key data sets. It was highlighted at the recent monitoring visit that this is seen as a commissioning tool to ensure delivery of the most appropriate services for the community. The Dashboard was positively received by the DfE/NHS England at the recent monitoring visit.
 - Both the LA and CCG have successfully completed key recruitment activity.
 - A multi-agency Steering Group established under the Opportunity Area Board to further develop and support the roll-out of the Whole School Programme.

Joint Bi-Monthly Monitoring and Support reviews from the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE) (L C-Izquierdo/M Joseph)

- 4 monitoring visits/meetings have been held in Dec17, Mar18, May18 and July18 with the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE) to review progress against the WSOA.
- Final visit/meeting is schedule for 26 Sept18.
- In Oct18 DfE will be drafting a report for 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.
- The final draft of the report from DfE will be submitted to the Minister in Nov18.

Priority 1: Potential non statutory compliance and exclusions per se (M Joseph)

- All concerns identified within the Ofsted Inspection report as being potentially non-compliant with statutory guidance have now been addressed and actions completed.
- Oldham remains confident it is compliant with relevant statutory duties through the robust governance structure that is in place, ensuring all families receive a legally compliant, timely service.
- RAG rating for this priority area agreed as **Green** with the DfE/NHS England at the July18 monitoring visit/meeting.

Priority 2: Effective Leadership of the reforms (L C-Izquierdo)

- SEND governance structure is fully embedded, operational and ensuring leadership and accountability. This includes the Transformation Assurance Board (TAB), Management Group, Task & Finish Workstreams and Partnership Board and was recognised as 'robust' by Ofsted. Parents/carers are integral to the structure ensuring true collaboration/co-production.
- Dir. of Children's Services (LA) and Executive Nurse (CCG) meet regularly with Task & Finish Workstream Leads to provide assurance on co-production/strategic involvement in all Workstreams and opportunity to unblock issues, mitigate risks and share success.
- Shirley Woods-Gallagher as AD Education SEND (LA) is in post increasing the leadership capacity for SEND.
- Oldham Parent Carer Forum's Peer Support Group is supporting parents/carers to participate in SEND governance structure. This empowers and supports parents/carers around strategic participation skills as well as strengthening opportunities to share successes, challenges and barriers to participation and co-production across the SEND agenda and partnership. The DfE/NHS England viewed this as an excellent piece of practice at the last monitoring visit.
- Reporting/accountability arrangements within Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are embedded with SEND duties aligned to strategic roles across the wider partnership.
- Designated clinical expertise and lead champion roles are now in place to support the Oldham Partnership including primary care.

Priority 2: Effective Leadership of the reforms *continued*

- Weekly SEND Health Implementation Group (SHIG) continues to monitor/implement all health related SEND activity as outlined in the SEND Health Action Plan.
- Pilot of Service User Evaluation of EHC process commenced and will conclude Sept18.
- Multi-agency Steering Group established under Opportunity Area Board to further develop/support implementation of Whole School Programme. A programme plan for the implementation of the Whole School/College Approach to Social, Emotional and Mental Wellbeing has been finalised, with identified leads and governance.
- Development of a SEND Inclusion Strategy for Oldham is in progress utilising external consultant support. 2 scoping days took place 21 Aug and 6 Sep18 including focused sessions with key leaders and stakeholders in the area of SEND.
- Comprehensive SEND Dashboard is in place to support the monitoring/evaluation of performance across the SEND Partnership. This brings together info/data from health, education, SENDIASS, Dispute Resolution Service and POINT (parent/carer forum).
- A multi agency SEND Performance and Data Group has met 3 times. It's TOR is to provide strategic oversight of data/intelligence to drive forward continuous improvement of SEND Partnership.
- Development of Oldham's Local Offer to ensure it meets best practice is ongoing with this work being led by the Local Offer Task & Finish Workstream.

Priority 2: Effective Leadership of the reforms *continued*

- Allocations from SEND Reform Grant agreed for:
 - Teaching Assistant support for Behaviour Inclusion Team;
 - Licence costs associated with Local Offer;
 - SENDIASS/DRS contract;
 - External support to develop SEND Inclusion Strategy;
 - Supporting Workstreams linked to SEND support strategy;
 - Health Co-ordinator for EHC plans;
 - Supporting co-production and parental engagement;
- RAG rating for priority area 2 agreed as **Green** with the DfE/NHS England at the July18 monitoring visit.

Priority 3: The EHC Process and improvement of the quality of EHC Plans (L C-Izquierdo/M Joseph)

- Annual Review Task & Finish Workstream action plan underpins work on EHC processes/plans and ensures clear focus. Parents/carers fully engaged in all developments. Consultation with Barrier Breakers and Oldham's forum for CYP with SEND on developments is continuing. Performance/QA frameworks being developed across the system to support this work and improve timeliness of EHCP's.
- Pennine Care Foundation Trust single point of health access (SPA) for health advice requests to be received, monitored and completed within statutory timescales is in place. SEND health dashboard (tracker) implemented to provide monitoring and evaluation of health input to EHC process and assurance of statutory timescales.
- Service user questionnaire co-produced and circulated to all families with final EHCP from April 18. Feedback will be used to further develop EHC processes and pathways. Development of joint systems for collecting, collating and evaluating the CYP and parent/carer experience continuing. The initial feedback from this has been very positive.
- SEND Dashboard will also support monitoring/evaluation of EHC process. SEND Performance and Data Group established to analyse data/information and offer challenge to the relevant leads.
- NHS Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) scheme has been utilised to build on the recommendations from the CQC/Ofsted SEND inspection.

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

- CCG recruitment to role of enhanced Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) completed.
- SEN Assessment Service (LA) restructure complete with recruitment of a SEND Service Manager, Team Manager, a new role of Operational Change Manager, 2 Senior EHC Officers and 5 EHC Officers posts.
- The timeliness of EHC plans is a key challenge which will improve from Sept18 with recruitment and additional capacity for the SEN Assessment Service.
- Recruitment to a new role of SEND Quality Practice Auditor as part of the SEN Assessment Service restructure completed. The post holder will carry out a quality assurance function within the SEND system and together with the new Health Co-ordinator will also allow for multi agency assessment of the quality of EHC plans.
- Children's Workforce Strategy Group established which includes remit to ensure Oldham SEND workforce across the whole partnership has the right number of staff with the right skills to deliver high quality services.
- RAG rating for priority area 3 agreed as **Amber/Green** with the DfE/NHS England at the July18 monitoring visit.

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

- Home to School Transport Policy is compliant and published on Oldham's Local Offer.
- Transport Task & Finish Workstream is now focussed on developing a more ambitious and co-produced policy to better meet needs of children and young people (CYP) with SEND. Parents have identified increased independence and support for travel for CYP as key requirements.
- Work also underway to develop and implement appropriate training for passenger assistant workforce and legal training for members involved in transport appeals.
- CCG Assuring Quality and Performance Committee is considering future resourcing for Transport.
- Robust system now in place to assess those CYP with complex health needs accessing Transport.
- Annual evaluations taking place to ensure packages of support meet needs.
- The RAG rating for this priority area agreed as **Green** with the DfE/NHS England at the July18 monitoring visit.

Priority 5: Underachievement, fixed term exclusions and persistently absent levels (M Joseph)

- Review of alternative provision commissioned via Opportunity Area (OA) funding is being led by Exec Heads of Oldham Special Schools. This will support children and young people at risk of exclusion by providing appropriate alternative options.
- Primary and Secondary Behaviour & Attendance Groups established with working groups focused on improving attendance, understanding and managing behaviour as well as local partnerships and how they work together to support inclusion.
- Health check of IT systems undertaken across education and social care to ensure solutions can support revised EHCP processes and provide better intelligence on children's progress. Updates to LA Synergy system (formerly Tribal) will allow near real time recording and analysis of school attendance and exclusions.
- Whole School/College approach to Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) is a key strand in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) transformation plan led by the Integrated Care Organisation (ICO). OA funding has supported appointment of a coordinator to lead / develop the Whole School Approach.
- Two Mental Health & Wellbeing Advisors also appointed to build capacity/up skill teaching and support staff to deliver robust SEMH class room based interventions, peer support, low level interventions and develop supportive networks across all schools/colleges.

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

- Education Performance and SEND Dashboards are aligned. Sampling and deeper analysis of data/trend information will allow senior managers to better understand landscape, be more targeted in challenging poor performance and to consider investment decisions with greater confidence.
- Local intelligence from SENDIASS and POINT is being used to triangulate with LA and CCG data sources to inform performance and identify areas of concern.
- Challenging performance targets to raise attainment by 1% greater than national average have been agreed across the SEND Partnership.
- Fixed Term Exclusions (FTE) for the overall SEND cohort have reduced by 2.7%, which is faster than for non-SEND of 0.7%.
- Gap between SEND and non-SEND is further closing, with a reduction of 2% in 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.
- RAG rating for priority area 5 agreed as **Amber/Green** with the DfE/NHS England at the July18 monitoring visit.

Conclusion of July18 Bi-monthly Monitoring Report (M Joseph)

The Bi-monthly Monitoring Report compiled by DfE following the latest monitoring meeting in July18 concluded that;

'This monitoring period has seen a step change in the progress of key tasks which have been in motion throughout the last 6 months. There are critical areas where it can be seen that Oldham partners are now working together effectively to drive forward change. The appointment of key staff across the partners and the recruitment strategies, including the Open Day, should lead to a new staff dynamic which provides a greater capacity to drive the cultural change forward. The EHC plans examined following the last meeting were judged to be significantly better than those seen previously and arrangements will soon be in place to have a learning session delivered.'