

Agenda Item 10

DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

1 March 2018

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REFORMS UPDATE

1. Purpose of the report

To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the key areas of focus in implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms in Derbyshire and progress since the SEND Local Area Inspection in November 2016.

2. Information and analysis

Parent / Carer Participation

Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice (DPCV) continue to be heavily involved in all the work of the SEND reforms and have representation on all the key groups and SEND Strategic Board. This active engagement was critical to Derbyshire's positive SEND inspection outcome and enables Derbyshire to co-produce strategic developments with parents and carers. DPCV is currently working to produce a video guide relating to the Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan process. They use surveys and workshops to gather feedback from parents and carers about their experiences; for example of the EHC Plan process and the Derbyshire Local Offer. These inform the Local Area Strategic Plan.

Participation of Children and Young People

Our Participation Manager has been working regionally on a good practice guide for children and young people's participation. This includes a 10 point good practice checklist. A SEND Officer for Participation was appointed who took a lead on implementing the SEND Participation Action Plan and linked with young people's groups in order to assist with their input into strategic developments around SEND in Derbyshire. (Due to both these staff moving onto new posts, we are now recruiting to a new Participation Officer post that will continue this work). Derbyshire has signed up to the Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET) again for 2017/18. This is the only nationally evaluated and benchmarked tool that looks at the satisfaction and experiences of the EHC planning and process. Children, parents and professionals all contribute to

POET. For the 2016/17 POET Derbyshire's results were positive and either on par with national figures or slightly better.

Feedback on Progress and SEND Local Area Strategic Plan

Following the SEND Local Area Inspection an extraordinary meeting of all those who took part in the Local Area Inspection was held in January 2017. From this a Strategic Plan was developed to address not only the areas identified in the Inspection but also drawing together other areas for development and actions that had been identified through Derbyshire's own Self Evaluation. The Quality Assurance and Accountability Group monitors the Strategic Plan and the Plan is constantly being updated to identify progress to date and where further action is required. This is reported to and overseen by the SEND Strategic Board.

The SEND Local Area Strategic Plan addressed 9 Key Areas for Improvement and these split down to a further 69 specific actions to be completed. These 69 specific actions have monitored and rated as follows:

- 31 fully completed
- 29 on schedule
- 9 now with revised dates (generally due to re-prioritisation of work)

In addition 10 new actions have been added to the plan and are on schedule.

Feeding into and driving the Strategic Plan is Derbyshire's SEND Local Area Self Evaluation Summary (as referred to above) which identifies Derbyshire's Strengths and Areas for Development. This was extensively updated in July / August 2017 and was formally approved by the SEND Strategic Board. The next update is now due and is currently being undertaken.

Derbyshire's SEND Locality Restructure

At the time of the SEND inspection the new Locality Structure was only just being put in place. This has now been completed and there are six Locality Teams that all each have a Lead SEND Officer and a team of SEND Officers and Administrative Officers. As well as the statutory roles such as undertaking the EHC Needs Assessment process and drawing up EHC Plans, the teams have been heavily promoting early intervention and the use of the graduated response. This includes support and challenge to schools / settings around inclusion and looking at SEND Support. Where appropriate this has included the use of 'My SEND Learning Programme' and accessing additional resources that can be provided by the Local Authority without having to undertake an EHC Needs Assessment (for example Graduated Response for Individual Pupil (GRIP) and Enhanced Temporary Additional Early Years Support (ETAEYS) funding).

Regional work

Derbyshire continues to link with colleagues regionally. There is a SEND Regional Leads group that meets regularly and now includes Designated Medical/Clinical Officers who are the Health Leads with regard to SEND. The

Department for Education (DfE) supports this regional working and is supporting regional training and development opportunities. We continue to get advice and support from our DfE regional advisor who also monitors our compliance against a number of national targets.

There is a peer review programme in place across the East Midlands to provide peer support and challenge to each other. Derbyshire is due to have a peer review 16/17 April 2018 as part of this.

A Project Manager for Regional SEND Commissioning has been appointed to work across the East Midlands. Aiming to look at regional placement issues, how to effectively and efficiently meet needs and wherever possible avoid distance placements. A Local Authority and Health rep will go to the oversight meetings from each area.

Data - SEND Timeliness / Conversions

Derbyshire's timeliness at producing EHC Plans within the 20 weeks' timescale this year is 52.5% without exemptions and 67% with exemptions (nationally the most recent available figures are 55.7% without exception and 58.6% with exemptions). Exemptions are given for when schools and colleges are closed over the summer and therefore the 20 week timescales cannot be met. Analysis of each case that is delayed is undertaken to look at how to improve on these figures.

All conversions of Statements of SEN to EHC Plans must be completed by 31st March 2018. Through close monitoring Derbyshire realised that this deadline would not be met without considerable additional support. Additional capacity is now in place to address this including assistance from external organisations who specialise in this support to Local Authorities and additional agency staff. The process to gather all the information required to convert all remaining Statements has now been completed and we are confident that all the EHC Plans will have been drafted by the end of March 2018. There is likely to be a number of EHC Plans that will not have been fully finalised by the deadline but they will have been drafted and will be with parents for their views prior to being finalised. No child or young person will be disadvantaged by this as they will continue to receive support in the interim.

SEND Commissioning Hub

The SEND Commissioning Hub is now established and meets monthly to discuss multi-agency commissioning issues related to SEND. The Hub is now being chaired by Dr Isobel Fleming (Service Director Countywide Commissioning) who is jointly employed by the Local Authority and by the NHS Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Groups. She therefore brings her multiagency role to the Hub and is able to link this to the Countywide Commissioning role that she is undertaking.

SEND Home to School Transport Review

This is being led by a Project Manager working with Stakeholders including parents and carers. The Validation Phase of the SEND Home to School

Transport Review is now complete. The aims of this phase were to understand the current position and to identify areas where we can improve services, improve efficiencies and foster independence. The next phase is the Engagement Phase; working with our stakeholders including parents to develop these ideas into viable options for wider consultation.

Development of the Derbyshire Local Offer Website

Derbyshire's website was reviewed for a second time as part of a regional peer review programme and there has been substantial improvements noted from the first audit. In the 23 areas being audited; Derbyshire's site either fully met or partially met all of these. Previously there has been areas where the site was not meeting these requirements. An action plan has been developed to ensure that the site fully covers all of these areas. Some of these improvements will be dependent on the move to a new website platform. A preferred new platform option has been identified and a business case is being written to seek approval for this to go ahead. Once agreed the site will be re-designed and re-launched.

SEND Needs Assessment

This is a comprehensive report that brings together a range of data and information about the number of children and young people in Derbyshire with SEND, their needs and how they are being supported to achieve their potential. Most of the information and analysis focuses on the County of Derbyshire, however, data relating to local health services also includes Derby City. This reflects the increasing level of joint working in health across this wider geographical footprint. The full report is 90 pages long. An executive summary was produced for the SEND Board with various recommendations and actions that will be followed up by the Quality Assurance and Accountability Group.

SEND Sufficiency Review

The DfE has allocated funding to Local Authorities to carry out a detailed review of their High Needs SEND Provision. The SEND Stakeholder group has helped develop the plans regarding this. Derbyshire Cabinet Member has given approval to go out to tender for this piece of work. The tender will go out March / April 2018 with the aim that the review can begin in July / August 2018.

High Needs Capital Money Allocation

The Department for Education has made available 3 blocks of capital funding which will be released each year for the next three years. This is to be used to increase provision for those with SEND. Derbyshire's Self Evaluation, feedback from parents, the SEND Commissioning Hub and learning from tribunals has identified that provision for those with autism and higher attaining is a current area of need and priority in Derbyshire. Consultation with various stakeholders has taken place and agreement secured to use the first round of capital funding to invest in provision for those with autism. The priorities for the second and third lots of capital funding will flow from the SEND Sufficiency Review

Tribunals: Single Route of Redress

From 3 April 2018, when going to the SEND Tribunal over an education matter, appellants will also be able to ask for a non-binding recommendations on any Social Care or Health matters that are included in the EHC Plan. The Local Authority or CCG will then have 5 weeks to respond stating what they are going to do to meet the recommendations or to give the reasons why they are not going to follow the recommendations. This will run as a trial for 2 years and will be evaluated.

3. Links to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The areas outlined above contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as they share the common values and principles such as ensuring services are person centred and are working in an integrated way, looking at delivering services locally and co-producing them, and, ensuring that children and young people with SEND are helped to reach their full potential. Through this they will help contribute to the priority area, 'Support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people'.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the key priorities of the SEND Reforms in Derbyshire and the actions that have been taken following the Local Area SEND Inspection, and, to make any comments or suggestions as appropriate.

**Jane Parfremment
Strategic Director for Children's Services
Derbyshire County Council**