

# SCRUTINY REPORT



**MEETING:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

**SUBJECT:** SEN Update

**REPORT FROM:** Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Karen Whitehead (Strategic Lead (Inclusion & Partnerships))

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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In June 2017 Bury had a Joint local area SEND inspection conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and a number of areas were identified as significant weaknesses. Bury Council and Bury Clinical Commissioning Group were required to submit a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to Ofsted.
- 1.2 The WSoA was assessed by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector and declared fit for purpose (as at 30 October 2017). As per the area inspection guidance Ofsted and CQC will usually re-visit a local area within 18 months of the WSoA being declared fit for purpose. We are expecting that Bury will be re-inspected before 30 April 2019.
- 1.3 Bury is now 18 months on and has learnt the lessons from the Ofsted inspection. The key areas of weakness were in:
  - Leadership
  - Local Offer
  - Co-production
  - Joint Commissioning
  - School SEN Support

There were also weaknesses in the sharing of health information and partners understanding and adoption of multi-agency working.

- 1.4 We have turned these areas of development into strengths over this last 18 months. Progress has been quicker in some areas than others dependent on the underlining factors, the level of engagement and ownership by partners.



## **2. Leadership**

2.1 Leadership at the time of the inspection was deemed poor and the challenge continues to be to develop the strategic leadership locally to own the agenda and ensure that the SEND Reforms in Bury are fully implemented.

### **2.2 What we've done to date (high level):**

- SEND Partnership Board is now well established with Terms of Reference and constructive challenge at Board meetings
- Workshops have been held with Bury Governors Association, School Governors to understand their role in schools for SEND
- SEND is now included in the NHS Bury CCG Commissioning Intentions 2018/19 strategy document with accountability through the CCG's governance structure
- An updated Self-View has been developed (as at January 2019) with the Board in preparation for re-inspection by Ofsted and CQC

## **3. Local Offer**

3.1 The awareness and understanding of Bury's Local Offer by service users was very poor at the time of the inspection. There has been a significant investment of time with officers in adults and children's (the Local Offer is hosted on the Bury Directory) and partners in order to own the issues and jointly take forward.

### **3.2 What we've done to date (high level):**

- Working group of Council officers, parents and participation worker has been established to review accessibility; re-design the look and content of Local Offer.
- Parents, children and young people have been asked for their views of what they wanted the website to look like and have been consulted on the logo, landing pages and design features.
- The launch of new Bury SEND Local Offer website is planned in March.

## **4. Co-Production**

4.1 A lot of work has been done to ensure that co-production is at the core of all strategic decisions, service development and our commissioning intentions for children and young people with SEND.

4.2 Bury's Parent and Carer Forum, Bury2gether, is now actively engaged in a number of work-streams so that parents' views are represented and there are also much stronger mechanisms in place now to capture the child/young person's voice.

### **4.3 What we've done to date (high level):**

- Parents now involved in Boards & decision making forums
- Very positive feedback from a Parents Co-Production Event run by Bury2gether 18 May 2018 with over 120 attendees. Outputs are actively informing the work-streams for the Local Offer, Commissioning, Co-Production, and Social Opportunities.
- Now more resources in the local authority for Participation, Engagement and Co-production work; also a Professionals Interest Group has been established



- There are various mechanisms for children and young people to have a voice: STARS group; the emerging SEND Youth Forum; "Have your say" events though more is planned in this area of engagement
- Representatives of the SEND Youth Forum attend SEND Partnership Board meetings
- A Co- production Strategy and Co-Production Charter has now developed for Bury

## **5. Joint Commissioning**

5.1 At the time of the inspection there was little appreciation of what was good commissioning and what co-production meant. Both CCG and Council were commissioning services without parents, children and young people at the heart.

### **5.2 What we've done to date (high level):**

- Bury (Council & CCG) Joint Commissioning Statement produced
- Parents now a member of the Joint Commissioning Group
- The SEND Rapid Needs Assessment completed (part of the JSNA)
- Work started on a Joint Commissioning Strategy but the momentum and commitment needs to be sustained
- CCG piloting a new model of sensory Occupational Therapy assessments
- Work started on re-design of the neurodevelopmental assessment care pathway

## **6. School SEN Support**

6.1 Previously the needs of SEMH children and young people in Bury have not been identified effectively and met by schools. This has resulted in vulnerable children being excluded from mainstream school as their behaviours cannot be managed and are most likely to be placed in independent non-maintained schools out of the Bury area.

6.2 A number of significant improvements have been made in the last 18 months to address inclusion though there remains further work to do to ensure that exclusions and local solutions are owned by schools through the SEMH Partnerships.

### **6.3 What we've done to date (high level):**

- SEMH Partnerships have been set up to facilitate a standardised approach to Early Identification
- 2 Inclusion Managers appointed for the Primary Schools and recruitment planned for a Secondary Inclusion Manager in the spring term
- Implementation of a borough wide Inclusion Quality Mark
- 4 tier structure of needs developed which gives a hierarchy of pupil presentation and guidance on interventions and services to support Early Intervention dependent on the incidence of needs
- Early Help has been restructured so that needs are identified at an early stage of concern which move on the scale to an Early Help support model
- SENCO network meetings held termly to ensure the school work-force understand the new approach to Early Intervention and the graduated approach
- Work has been done with schools on the basic provision required to meet pupils' SEMH needs using a baseline behaviour assessment of the child/young person and modifying the school behaviour policy to the child's needs.
- Pupil panels have been established within the SEMH Partnerships to discuss pupil needs against evidence and find local solutions
- PRU's have de-designed their offer to meet the needs of this cohort and provide the type of support that schools require.
- An MDT approach to crisis cases has reduced exclusions but is heavy on resources



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**List of Background Papers:-****Contact Details:-**

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