

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	12 SEPTEMBER 2019
SUBJECT:	SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY UPDATE
REPORT FROM:	KAREN WHITEHEAD STRATEGIC LEAD (INCLUSION AND PARTNERSHIPS)
CONTACT OFFICER:	STEPHEN MASON – SERVICE MANAGER CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY/PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The SEND Ofsted revisit in May 2019 found that Bury Local area had made sufficient progress in 5 of the 8 areas and the three other areas had not made sufficient progress as follows:

- Sharing of health information and contribution to Education Health and Care plans (EHCP).
- Health Practitioners were unaware of Children's EHCPs.
- Joint Commissioning Arrangements

2.0 ACTIONS TO DATE

A draft accelerated plan of action has been submitted to the Department of Education as required following the Ofsted revisits clearly identifying how improvements will be stepped up.

The SEND Partnership Board is refreshing its governance and membership to ensure it can better fulfil its role of providing Partnership leadership, quality and accountability

An EHCP process and data task and finish group has been specifically set up and have already undertaken the following;

An appropriate electronic case recording system has been identified by health for SEND.

Social Care are reviewing their processes on contributing and utilising EHCPs, this is alongside a review of processes for short breaks to make more outcome focused and more transparent decision making.

A feedback tool for parents and young people is being developed that tracks actions against what parents and children have told us "You said – We did", that will be adopted across the work of the SEND Partnership Board.

A multi-agency workshop is planned for in September with representatives from all agencies, schools and parents. This will look at the EHCP process, establish current understanding, identifying barriers and tasking of solutions to address in order to successfully joint produce and deliver EHCP's.

A plan is in place to audit and undertake remedial action to address any quality issues within existing EHCP's and establish a quality assurance process to ensure all new EHCP's are of good quality.

An audit tool has been developed that quality assures each section of an EHCP. A monthly sample will be audited by a multi-agency audit team looking at 3 cases from Early Years, 3 from Primary, 3 Secondary and 3 16+ of issued EHCP's. This will measure impact on practice of improvement activity and provide evidence of areas to be further improved.

A review mechanism is being developed for all out of borough placements in independent provision to ensure that all children are achieving the best outcomes they can.

All process steps, forms are to be reviewed and improved where needed. This includes establishing an effective multi-agency decision making panel to assess and to issue EHCP's. This will be captured and monitored through a new delivery plan of the agreed SEND strategy.

An integrated commissioning team made up of social care and health commissioners has been established with a single line manager to undertake joint commissioning for SEND. The priorities of this team will be co-produced with parents. There is already a joint commissioning strategy in place and separate governance structure that reports to the SEND Partnership Board to ensure this important area picks up pace.

There is still work ongoing to ensure that co-production is strengthened across the partnership and some outside help has been commissioned to assist with this. There is a separate plan specifically around this area of work.

3.0 CONCLUSION

There is a comprehensive action plan in place to accelerate the pace of change in relation to SEND to ensure that all aspects of the local area offer are effective, joined up and improve the outcomes for all Bury children with SEN.

List of Background Papers:-

- Final SEND re-visit action plan
- Joint Commissioning Strategy
- SEND Strategy
- Report on Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) Quality Assurance and Remedial Actions July 2019

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