

SCRUTINY REPORT

MEETING:	Children's and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	7 November 2024
SUBJECT:	The Local Area Response to the Published SEND inspection and monthly update
REPORT FROM:	Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet member for Children and Education Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Wendy Young, Head of Service – Inclusion & SEND

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Following Bury's local area SEND services Inspection by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted. The inspection team identified widespread, systemic failings in services and highlighted the challenge that we need to do more to improve the outcomes of children and young people with special educational needs.

1.2 The inspection identifies 6 priority actions which Bury Council and NHS Greater Manchester ICB are jointly responsible for, along with 3 areas for improvement. As a result of the inspection outcome, the local authority has been issued with an Improvement Notice and will be subject to monitoring visits followed by a re-inspection in approximately 18 months.

2.0 ISSUES

2.1 As a result of the inspection outcome, the Bury local area has produced a Priority Action Plan, which we are locally referring to as our Priority Impact Plan (PIP).

2.2 The PIP has been co-produced with stakeholders, including parents and carers and is the strategic plan for SEND, setting out what needs to be delivered in the next 18-24 months with key milestones and key performance indicators. The plan is published on our local offer.

2.3 Support for the delivery of the Priority Impact Plan has been supported through additional investment by the council and the ICB – this will support the programme management and governance (see below), but also address some of the critical deficits identified in the report, such as the number of EHCPs reviewed and amended each year. The level of investment secured is approximately £450,000 a year.

Governance arrangements

2.4 The SEND Improvement & Assurance Board (SIAB) is accountable to the Cabinet within the Council, and to the GM Integrated Care Board via the Locality Board, which operates as a sub-committee of the ICB Board and replaces the previous SEND local area partnership Boards.

2.5 The SIAB meet monthly (first meeting took place on 17th June 2024), and benefits from an independent chair, Deborah Glassbrook who has experience of working with other local areas who are subject to intervention in relation to SEND. The Board include strategic leaders from across the partnership and a Delivery Group has been mobilised with Terms of Reference agreed, with active participation in both groups from across the partnership.

Programme and Project Management support has now been onboarded.

Minutes and papers from each SIAB are provided through the Local Offer Website to ensure visibility.

2.6 Each Priority Action has a nominated lead officer, who will be a senior officer within their organisation. The Workstream Leads provide monthly highlight reports to the SIAB and ensure monthly reviews of the risk register. Reports will be expected to provide updates on activity, performance data and quality assurance findings.

The Local Area Priority Impact Plan (PIP) outlines the high-level strategic plan for SEND improvement, with the performance monitoring, future activity and risk/risk register. In accordance with the reporting requirements of this board and as part of this standing agenda item, Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee will be reported to in the same format.

2.7 Priority Action 1: **Strategy**

The first action with our Priority Impact Plan is to coproduce the local area SEND Strategy with our parents, carers and young people. This will clearly set out an aspirational strategy for children, young people and their families in with SEND in Bury. This will incorporate the core role of the PIP as delivering this will be the priority across Bury's system over next 18 months.

The process for this will bring together system partners together in 2 workshops to develop the strategy and will be developed through the commissioned support of the Children for Disabled Council (CDC), through the remainder of the autumn term and the development of a draft strategy in January 2024, which may then be distilled into a strategy on a page.

A review of the SEND system communications and new Communications Strategy is also a key action within the plan and the appointment of a SEND Communication & Engagement Officer is anticipated to be in post by January 2024, subject to successful recruitment. In the interim Bury Council's corporate communications team and NHS communication officers are providing cover.

The re-launch of the SEND newsletter is due October 2024, as a key part of the communications moving forward. This has been drafted as a partnership, ensuring that all of the key perspectives and information updates have been included, and ensuring that the newsletter will be clear and informative for parents.

A draft Quality Assurance (QA) Protocol for Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Plans has been developed and shared with the board. The QA protocol will adopt a tiered audit approach, including compliance, single agency, multi-agency audits and 'deep dives' This process aims to identify strengths and areas for improvement to inform continued improvement and development in the quality of EHC Plans.

A planned approach has been agreed to identify stakeholders, deliver training to auditors and commence multi-agency audits. A data dashboard will also be established as part of this process to determine outcomes and improvement over time.

2.8 Priority Action 2: **Early identification**

The local authority is committed to the inclusion of all children with additional needs. A graduated approach toolkit has been established and published on the local offer. The development of the Early Years and Post-16 sections of this is continuing with an anticipated completion timeline of December 2024.

58% of schools have engaged with the CPD programme based on the Graduated Approach. 109 school-based practitioners have attended.

Our Graduated approach has also been complimented by the development of a revised Inclusion and Outreach offer, which has been circulated to schools and services to set out the combined offer from the SEND Support Service, Outreach Team, Educational Psychology, Oak Learning Partnership (OLP) and Early Years. This has included the introduction of an Inclusion Support system supporting schools with immediate advice and signposting to prevent placement breakdown or permanent exclusion.

There have been significant developments to the Health Visiting Service in terms of recruitment to better meet the needs of Bury's most complex children and young people.

The Bury Send Local offer has been migrated from the Bury Directory website to the Bury Council main website, from a revised specification drawn up by a working group consisting of representatives from health, Bury2gether, colleagues from across SEND Services, SEND Inclusion Ambassador, and various other council officers.

Work is continuing with the development of the Local Offer, with Preparation for Adulthood an immediate focus and in accordance with our improvement plan.

Initial shows an increase in visitors to the website between September to October 2024.

A £300K investment has been made to develop the Health Visiting (HV) Service. A lead for the HV service has been successfully recruited pending security checks with an anticipated January 2025 start date.

The recruitment of a further 4.76 FTE HVs is underway with a view to the generic HV service relinquishing complex cases to the newly appointed HVs; this represents growth in the service in terms of its capacity to meet the needs of the most complex children and young people. 2.44 HV FTE have been appointed with a start date of October 2024. Remaining posts are waiting to go out to advert.

The SEND HV role carries a smaller case load than within the generic service which will enable an evidence-based approach to service delivery. This will hopefully include use of the SACSR – I basis programme which helps to identify younger children with autism.

2.9 Priority Action 3: **Access to Health Services & Support while waiting.**

In September the Joint Commissioning Group was re-established with positive discussions on a shared view of co-design and processes of evaluation moving forward.

NHS GM has launched a public engagement exercise to gather views on children and young people’s attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) services in Greater Manchester.

The engagement exercise, which runs until Friday 29 November 2024, seeks to address some of the issues, including long wait times, ongoing support for patients, the assessment process, and how services vary across Greater Manchester.

The Speech Language and Communication system across Bury is onboarding another round of families to access the Can-Do programme. Can Do is a speech and language programme that supports those children with language delay and as part of a support whilst waiting offer and is available to all children awaiting speech and language assessments. The programme has also moved to a WhatsApp platform, to increase access and support parents to engage at their own pace. Practitioners are also supported to use this with families they are supporting. There are currently 100 families taking up this offer.

The Northern Care Alliance has developed a speech and language Padlet and is developing further padlets to support whilst waiting. These aim to provide quality assured advice and guidance to children/young people, families and professionals, whilst waiting.

Bury Paediatric SLT (Financial Year 24/25)	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
SLT - Total number waiting	495	474	436	386	344	277
SLT >18-52 (Weeks)	220	241	213	215	212	173
SLT >18 week Longest Wait (weeks)	49	70	62	60	66	65
SLT over 52 weeks	90	52	50	14	5	2
Performance	38%	39%	40%	45%	39%	38%

Additional capacity continues to grow in CAMHS with the outstanding remaining new posts being recruited to this quarter. Core CAMHS is due to go live (up to 18) in November. There are additional evidence-based interventions now on offer as well as developing a new CAMHS Thinking Families offer. Supporting families to better understand their neurodiverse child’s behaviour and how to respond. CAMHS are currently carrying 8 vacancies in the Bury Team.

ND pathway colleagues across GM are being consulted with to identify ‘good practices’ in supporting the reduction of waiting time from referral, assessment to intervention. The team will be amending the outpatient templates to increase new activity from November-February to support initial wait times, with a review in-between. Risks will be: -

- Loss of follow up capacity.
- Increase in number of children requiring panel discussion.



691.2 = Total News can be seen over the next 30 weeks
 93.0 = Leave = 822 / 7.52 / News
 = Avg per week

Bury Paediatric Community Consultants	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
ConsPaeds - Total number waiting	476	470	491	518	508	500
ConsPaeds >18 week Waiters	191	190	320	338	347	363
ConsPaeds >18 week Longest Wait (weeks)	52	52	66	58	58	64
ConsPaeds over 52 weeks	3	6	11	43	47	47
Performance %	40%	40%	35%	35%	32%	27%



Autism Pathway

ASC	Numbers	Longest Waiter	Average Waits in Wks
IA	253	74.57 Wks	37.50Wks
ASC traige	29	29Wks	3.2wks
DH	47	58Wks	24.82Wks
ADOS	85	38.29Wks	19.17Wks
ASC play Obs	4	49wks	25.25Wks
ASC School Obs	3	3.8Wks	2.09Wks
ASC Report writing	26	32.57Wks	12.27Wks
ASC panel	51	96Wks	14.70Wks
Feedback	30	11.14Wks	5.07Wks
Total	528		



ADHD Pathway

ADHD	Numbers	Longest Waiter	Average Waits in Wks
IA	345	75Wks	33.33Wks
ADHD Traige	49	3.8Wks	1.89Wks
ADHD DH	21	47.86Wks	20.86Wks
QB Testing	46	26.43Wks	10.10Wks
ADHD School Obs	2	14.43Wks	9.28Wks
ADHD Report writing	48	29.86wks	5.5Wks
ADHD MDT	109	96Wks	19.58Wks
ADHD Feedback	8	7.4Wks	3Wks
ADHD Psychiatry	66	55.43Wks	23.61Wks
Total	694		
Over 18 yr old	107		

The development of a Neuro Diversity hub is ongoing with the creation of a planned local implementation group. There are plans in development to ask all families awaiting assessment what would support them whilst they wait.

The GM profiling toolkit is undergoing its final amends, and it will then be ready for wider roll out. Spectrum Gaming are also working on a Young Persons tool to support young people with Autism to access areas of support and understanding pertinent to them.

The Peer-to-Peer Autism Understood offer launched in September.

ND Profiling Tool kit training is being sourced via the ICB transformation workstream. Close links with our SENCO network have been established.

Plans to move towards a graduated response sensory need have been developed in consultation with B2Gether. A professional sensory processing differences toolkit is in development as part of the universal support offer.

The Neurodiversity in Schools Programme, previously known as Autism in Schools, has been launched and several primary and secondary schools have chosen to participate. 5 Primary schools and 4 secondaries. A combination of education and health colleagues have been selected to work together with Bury2gether to take part in the 'Train the Trainer' Programme and the delivery of modules to support Neurodiverse needs within school.

Further Padlet support continues to be utilised and include supporting Neurodiversity, epilepsy, sensory processing and mental health support.

2.9 Annual Reviews of Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

Bury Council currently maintain 2856 EHC Plans. The Local Authority are responsible for ensuring that each plan is reviewed at least annually and every 6 months for children under the age of 5 years old.

At present the local authority does not have an accurate monitoring and reporting mechanism for holding annual review data, to ensure robust reporting of annual review involvements and to enable notifications to our education, health and social care colleagues of when an annual review should be held by, in accordance with statutory requirements.

To date there has been a reliance on excel spreadsheets to maintain this overview and since July 2024 a data cleanse has been in operation to update the Liquid Logic System. An anticipated completion date has been agreed for December 2024, and with a view that the local authority would be able to report on this area as part of the statutory data collection, SEN 2.

During the academic year 2023/2024 approximately 52.4% EHCP'S had a completed annual review involvement, 21% of these are understood to have been completed within the statutory timeframe.

It is therefore necessary to develop an annual review recovery plan to ensure that every child and/or young person with an EHCP has a completed annual review involvement.

The annual review recovery plan will adopt a phased approach to recovery. Initially this will address the key stage transfer reviews, which are due to be completed by 15 February 2024, (nursery to reception and yr. 6-7 transfers). Phase 2 will address the yr.11 and yr.13 transfers by the 31 March 2024. Further phases will then be progressed and as the capacity within the team is developed.

The following data has been gathered through manual data capturing and is indicative that from 9 September 2024 to 21 October there has been 129 annual review meetings, 85 of these have resulted in an amendment to the EHC Plan (within process), and 61 being part of the phase 1 of recovery plan. 34 EHC Plans are to be maintained in the current format.

This area remains to be a significant area of challenge, in terms of the ability to capture accurate data and ensure that we work towards fulfilling this statutory requirement. To ensure this area of recovery progresses a further understanding of the functionality of data systems is required as well as the need to build the capacity in the team through ongoing recruitment processes.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The Local Area SEND Partnership is committed to improving services for children and young people with SEND and their families.

The SIAB has received assurance that we are progressing, in accordance with the commitments set out in the Local Area SEND Priority Impact Plan. There is still a considerable amount of work to be done, and it is essential that we maintain a consistent pace and ensure that we capture the impact for our children, young people and their families and that this is sustained throughout.

List of Background Papers:-

Bury Local Area Partnership Priority Impact Plan

Contact Details:-

[Report Author] Wendy Young, Head of Service, SEND & Inclusion

Executive Director sign off Date: _____

JET Meeting Date: _____