

# **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny**

**SEN Task and Finish Report**

**Update on recommendations**

## Recommendation 1 - Recommendation accepted in principle

That the shortfall in provision, particularly for those with moderate learning difficulties and autism be addressed.

# Update

- A SEN sufficiency statement was produced in 2017/2018 which identified any gaps in local SEN provision. As a consequence a plan was developed to create an additional 270 SEN places.
- An update to the sufficiency statement will be undertaken to ensure that an evidence base exists to support further places to be.

## Recommendation 2 - Recommendation accepted

That all schools be encouraged to welcome children with SEN.

# Update

- All schools are required to be inclusive.
- The SEN team promote education in the first instance be through **the local** mainstream school.
- The SEN toolkit supports all schools with strategies to meet children's needs
- The Inclusion Quality Team work with schools to develop capacity and support schools to retain children with SEN

## Recommendation 3 - Recommendation accepted

That working relationships between partners and the sharing of information continue to be improved, particularly in the production of the EHCP's.

# Update

- The Partnership Board includes all key partners.
- There are proposals to move to a locality delivery model which will further support improved working relationships.

## **Recommendation 4 - Recommendation accepted in principle**

That EHCPs be produced as a word document to enable all partners to amend them.

# Update

- EHCPs are now shared in word format routinely but on request. The plans is to develop Liquid Logic so that partners can directly write their advice into the EHCP.

## Recommendation 5 - Recommendation accepted

That EHCPs avoid jargon, be written in plain English and celebrate what the child can do.

# Update

- Quality assurance of all plans takes place. This includes a check on plain English and jargon.
- All plan writers have attended training.
- Signs of safety strengths based approach to be embedded across the service

## **Recommendation 6 - Recommendation accepted**

That further training and support be given to all partners to ensure that referrals are complete and of suitable quality.

# Update

- Social Care and Health colleagues have updated their guidance for input into EHCP needs assessments and training has been or is planned for all staff.
- The needs assessment checklist has been updated and training provided to SENCOs.
- Evidence shows that the quality of submission for needs assessments is improving.

## Recommendation 7 - Recommendation accepted

Systems need to be implemented and support provided to ensure parents are kept fully up to date on the production of an EHCP.

## Update

- Initial face to face coproduction meetings are held. Feedback has been very positive.
- Once all the information has been received a second face to face coproduction meeting takes place to develop the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- SEND Officers are required to keep parents up to date on a fortnightly basis but due to capacity this has not always been possible.

## **Recommendation 8 - Recommendation accepted**

That the Multi Agency Moderation Panel and its processes be reviewed.

## Update

- A review has taken place with a new panel arrangement in place. A rota has been created so that other professionals e.g. Head teachers , SENCOs can gain experience of being a panel member
- All panel members included on the rota have attended training so they know what is expected of panel members

## **Recommendation 9 - Recommendation accepted in principle**

That a Cheshire East accredited Educational Psychologist system be introduced to deal with and accept private reports.

## Update

- The code of practice states that the Local Authority should request psychological advice and information from an educational psychologist who should normally be employed or commissioned by the local authority.
- We now commission Locum Educational Psychologists where capacity is needed.

## Recommendation 10 - Recommendation accepted

That a review of the specialist support services be reviewed to ensure they are fully fit for purpose.

# Update

- A peer review of specialist services has been undertaken and following this there will be consultation with unions and staff to restructure the service to ensure it is fit for purpose and has the appropriate capacity.

## Recommendation 11 - Recommendation accepted

That a review of the tribunal services be undertaken.

# Update

- The tribunal arrangements have been reviewed and SEN Management Team;
  - consider if steps can be taken to avoid tribunal.
  - consider if there is any learning
  - ensure we are confident that our case is strong and in the best interest of the child
- Where a tribunal takes place a reflective review will be undertaken to ensure learning.

## Recommendation 12 - Recommendation accepted

That a further Task and Finish Group be established to investigate the local offer for 16 – 25 year olds.

# Update

- The Task and Finish Group has been established and the review is underway.

## **Recommendation 13 - Recommendation accepted in principle**

That Cheshire East explores an equipment store to be used by all schools.

# Update

- The recommendation is accepted in principle but further consideration will need to be given to taking this forward including a fully costed business case.

## Recommendation 14- Recommendation accepted

That early year's providers are supported with the right knowledge, training and resources, to identify children with SEN and apply for an EHCP.

# Update

- Training has been provided to early years settings.
- A continuing training programme is in place and support is in place to enable early years settings to identify SEN needs.

## Recommendation 15- Recommendation accepted

That further work be undertaken to promote personal budgets and a policy be introduced.

# Update

- A Personal Budget Policy already exists but further work to promote the policy is required. This will be addressed through the improvement plan

## **Recommendation 16- Recommendation accepted**

That Schools Forum be requested to review the distribution and methodology of funding.

# Update

- Schools Forum has established a Task and Finish Sub Group which is considering SEN funding levels and funding methodology. The sub group is due to report in Spring 2019.

## Recommendation 17- Recommendation accepted

That Schools Forum be requested to review the distribution and methodology of funding.

# Update

- Schools Forum has established a Task and Finish Sub Group which is considering the SEN funding levels and funding methodology. The sub group is due to report in the Spring 2019.

# Questions

## Question Time

