

Title of Report:	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Improvement Update
Date of meeting:	24 th March 2020
Written by:	Cheshire East 0-25 SEND Partnership
Contact details:	Jacky Forster (Chair of the Cheshire East 0-25 SEND Partnership)
Health & Wellbeing Board Lead:	Mark Palethorpe

Executive Summary

Is this report for:	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>
Why is the report being brought to the board?	It was agreed that regular updates on progress against Cheshire East's SEND Written Statement of Action would be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board for scrutiny.		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?	Starting and Developing Well <input type="checkbox"/> Living and Working Well <input type="checkbox"/> Ageing Well <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Principles this report relates to?	Equality and Fairness <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility <input type="checkbox"/> Integration <input type="checkbox"/> Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Key Actions for the Health & Wellbeing Board to address. Please state recommendations for action.	Members of Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to: a. Note the progress to date against the SEND Written Statement of Action and preparations for the SEND Revisit. b. Endorse the Introduction document at Appendix 1		
Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG board/stakeholders?	Prior to this meeting, this report has been considered by the Council's People Departmental Management Team (DMT) and Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). Within the CCGs, this paper has been considered by the Executive Team and the Strategy and Partnerships and Performance Committee.		
Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?	Feedback from a wide range of professionals across education, health and care and members of the public (including parent carers) contributed to the development of the SEND Written Statement of Action and the Action Plan within it. We are continuing to use both data and feedback as a measure of the impact of our improvement actions.		

<p>If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit? Detail benefits and reasons why they will benefit.</p>	<p>The SEND Written Statement of Action aims to ensure that, where appropriate, children and young people with SEND, and their families, have access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ timely child and young person-centred EHC needs assessments and EHC Plans of high quality ▪ efficient, consistent and timely pathways of assessment and support for Autism
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1 Report Summary

- 1.1 Following the Ofsted and CQC Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Local Area Inspection in March 2018, Cheshire East was asked to produce a Written Statement of Action which described the actions the area would take to improve identified significant weaknesses relating to Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans and Autism pathways. Our Written Statement of Action was considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2018 and was subsequently deemed fit for purpose by Ofsted in October 2018. An update was provided to the Board in September 2019. This report provides a further update, in particular around the preparations for the SEND Revisit.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:
- a. Note the progress to date against the SEND Written Statement of Action and preparations for the SEND Revisit; and
 - b. Endorse the overview document at Appendix 1.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board is the overarching governance board for the 0-25 SEND Partnership. This report ensures that the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are updated on SEND improvement work and have the opportunity to provide relevant support and challenge to the 0-25 SEND Partnership around improvements relating to SEND, in line with the SEND Written Statement of Action.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1 This report focuses on improvements to services for Cheshire East children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND, and is linked to all of the Health and Wellbeing Board priority outcomes.

5 Background and Options

5.1 Introduction and background

- 5.1.1 In March 2018, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a joint local area inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Cheshire East. The inspection looked at how effectively partners in Cheshire East work together to identify,

assess and meet the needs of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND to improve their outcomes.

5.1.2 As a result of two areas of significant weakness, Cheshire East was required to produce and submit a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to Ofsted that explains what the local area is doing to address these:

- Area 1 - the timeliness, process and quality of education, health and care (EHC) plans
- Area 2 - the lack of an effective autism spectrum disorder (ASD) pathway and unreasonable waiting times

5.1.3 Our Written Statement of Action was considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2018 and was subsequently deemed fit for purpose by Ofsted in October 2018. Since then, significant progress has been made in improving SEND services. Whether or not we have made sufficient progress will be considered in detail as part of the Ofsted/CQC revisit.

5.2 Preparation for Ofsted/CQC re-visit

5.2.1 An update on preparations was provided to the Board in September 2019. In summary, Ofsted and the CQC will carry out a re-visit to Cheshire East before the end of April 2020. Notification of the inspection will be given 10 working days before the re-visit team arrives on site for around two to four days. The sole purpose of the re-visit is to determine whether sufficient progress has been made in addressing the areas of significant weakness detailed by the WSOA (including an evaluation of the impact of the actions taken). The focus of the re-visit will be the areas identified in the WSOA. However, if any other serious weaknesses are identified during the re-visit, these will be referenced in the re-visit letter.

5.2.2 Preparations are underway for the revisit. This includes preparing key documents to evidence progress, communication and engagement with all stakeholders and ensuring arrangements are in place to respond quickly on notification of the revisit.

5.2.3 It is expected that the following documents will be provided to Inspectors on day 4 of the first off-site week of the inspection:

- A short overview document in relation to the WSoA (Appendix 1).
- The latest updated WSoA – detailed progress on each action.
- A report on the timeliness of Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans
- A report on the process and quality of Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans.
- A report on autism timeliness and pathways.

5.2.4 We are also preparing a number of supporting documents to be ready should Inspectors request them.

5.2.5 Following the re-visit, Ofsted and CQC will produce a letter that will include:

- the decision as to whether the local area has made sufficient progress in improving each of the serious weaknesses identified at the initial inspection

- a clear and brief summary of the effectiveness of leaders' actions against each serious weakness identified in the WSOA
- reference to any other serious concerns, with the underpinning evidence, identified during the re-visit, and clarification that these will be communicated to the DfE and NHS England and will be used to determine the timing of the next inspection (under any future LA SEND framework).

5.2.6 If Cheshire East is considered to have made sufficient progress, the formal quarterly support and challenge visits that we currently have with the DfE and NHS England will cease.

5.2.7 If Cheshire East is making insufficient progress in any of the serious weaknesses identified, it is for the DfE and NHS England to determine the next steps. This may include the Secretary of State using his powers of intervention. Ofsted and the CQC will not carry out any further re-visits unless directed to do so by the Secretary of State.

6 Access to Information

6.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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