



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:

SEND Executive Board Update

Board Lead:

Tim Aldridge – Director of Children's Services

Report Author and contact details:

Caroline Penfold – Head of Children's and Adults with Disabilities. 01708 431743

The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- ☐ Theme 1: Primary prevention to promote and protect the health of the community and reduce health inequalities
- ☐ Theme 2: Working together to identify those at risk and intervene early to improve outcomes and reduce demand on more expensive services later on
- ☒ Theme 3: Provide the right health and social care/advice in the right place at the right time
- ☒ Theme 4: Quality of services and user experience

SUMMARY

As previously reported, the borough is committed to the implementation of the reforms to support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, (SEND) as outlined in the Children and Families Act (2014). In Havering we have made significant progress in implementing new processes, establishing positive working relationships with our local partners and improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND. There is a program of joint inspections from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission and Havering can expect an inspection at any point in the next 3 years. The inspection will assess how we have implemented the reforms for children and young people, provide us with valuable feedback on where they see our strengths and where we have more work to do. In Havering we have established a SEND Executive Board which oversees the implantation of the reforms, works to establish priorities and monitors progress.

This report provides an update on the key areas of progress.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is invited to receive an update at the meeting, outlining the progress made since the previous update to the Board in May 2017 and note areas for action over the coming months.

REPORT SUMMARY

The Update to the board will cover:

- The status of the High Needs Review and Strategy, with the full strategy being presented to the board in November
- The Local Area Self-Evaluation progress to date, with the full document being presented at a later board
- The work undertaken to date in preparation for an inspection
- The Education, Health and Care Panel review and refresh
- The Education, Health and Care process improvements, including the EHC hub developments
- The engagements already taken place and scheduled in with schools

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The implications of a negative inspection, particularly one that results in a 'written statement of action' will be significant for the CCG and Council and regular monitoring by regulators would follow to check improvement has taken place. Risks have been identified and plans have been made to improve known areas of vulnerability, ahead of unannounced inspection.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.



Health and Well-being Board SEND Update

The SEND Executive Board

The SEND Executive Board has been established with representation across the authority, CCG, NELFT, Schools and Parents. The Board is chaired by Tim Aldridge (DCS). The Board has been overseeing the review and development of work to ensure the expected reforms to the area of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is targeted, making progress and is delivering the expected outcomes of the Children and Families Act. There is a programme of work the board is undertaking, and an update on each of the areas can be found below:

High Needs Review and Strategy

Last year, the government announced proposals to consult on how funding is given to local authorities and schools to support children and young people with SEND. As part of this, local authorities were required to refresh their SEND Strategy to ensure that it is up to date, reflects current and predicted trends, and provides clarity on how the authority expects different levels of needs to be met and where its current and future gaps in provision are. There is also an expectation that local authorities are making sure provision is effective and that high needs funding is invested appropriately to gain maximum benefit for its local population.

Linked to this work was the announcement in March 2017 that a new SEND capital grant will be available for three years commencing 18/19 of which Havering's allocation is £2.5m in total. To enable the borough to draw this down we need to demonstrate how we intend to use this, in line with an evidenced needs analysis and published strategy.

The LA have been working with schools and academies, post-16 institutions, local authority staff, as well as children, young people and parents to ensure that the range and quality of provision reflects the needs and aspirations of children and young people in the area.

Emerging priorities for provision for SEND and those requiring alternative provision are:

- Re-designating special schools where possible/ necessary to better reflect their intake
- Expanding provision in our special schools where necessary
- Develop the new free school for children and young people with Autism and SEMH (social, emotional and mental health difficulties). This would be for pupils aged from 3 – 16 years, and who are at the more complex end of need.
- Reviewing how alternative provision is provided, in line with government guidance regarding schools' responsibilities for educating excluded pupils



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- Developing sufficient, high quality Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) (particularly important if special schools are re-designated)
- Investing in workforce training to ensure staff across all schools, mainstream, ARP and special, feel confident in supporting pupils with additional needs to achieve.

Emerging priorities for funding are:

- Ensuring schools and academies have sufficient funding in their delegated budget to enable them to support pupils' SEND where required.
- Funding to schools that recognises those that take in disproportionately high numbers of children with SEN.
- Realistic and consistent funding levels for schools with ARPs, both SEN and Emotional and Behavioural (SEMH).
- A review of special school funding to include matrix levels
- Funding to address high needs in early years
- Monitoring of increasing costs of residential and independent school placements
- Development of local provision that will lead to a reduction in the costs of external provision
- A review of post 16 SEN costs up to 25.

A final draft of the refreshed SEND Strategy will be published and formally consulted on in the autumn, and a full update will be brought to the next board meeting for sign off.

Education, Health and Care Panel (EHCP)

The Education, Health and Care Panel, formally known as SEN Panel, was introduced in 2014 to support the legislative changes to the SEN Code of Practice. To meet the Local Authority's statutory duty to ensure consistency, transparency and timely decision making the EHCP Multi-Agency Panel needs to be supported by representation from key decision makers with budgetary responsibility across Education, Health and Social Care.

Feedback on the functioning of the panel indicated that the panel wasn't always making decisions in a timely way and was spending a long time considering all levels of request and issues. This led to the agreement to review the processes and composition of the panel. The review highlighted two areas to be improved upon to support a more efficient, focussed and professional decision making forum that supports the ethos of the legislation introduced.

These are:



1. Panel to be targeted and focussed on Complex or Multi-Agency resourced cases, cases that require group funding or decisions. Cases that are complex and present risk to the authority if not dealt with in a timely manner.
 - a. Panel will be moved to fortnightly and management decisions taken on lower level issues between
 - b. Panel will be relaunched and new guidance will be published
2. Changes in processes to support the improved efficiency of Panel.
 - a, clarity around attendance
 - b, effective panel preparation and recording of decisions.

Children and Adults Service (CAD) Business Process Improvements

The business processes within the CAD team do not mirror those used in the rest of Children's Social Care, meaning that the child's record cannot be shared across the service and other teams easily and performance information is hard to collate. CAD have worked with the Innovation and Service improvement team to modify CCM, the Child record system, to allow the recording of all CAD children. The staff are currently being trained to use the system and a program of migrating case records will be commencing this autumn.

Specifically in the area of the EHC assessment and planning, the service has been investigating the use of an interactive system involving schools parents and young people. Following a demonstration of a new web based system called EHCP hub, which can offer a platform to stream line communication and EHCP development in a multi-agency interactive way involving parents and schools, a decision has been taken to implement the hub and work will commence on this in October 2017. The benefits to using this platform are greater efficiency and transparency regarding the EHC assessment and planning process involving all our partners.

Local Offer

The Children and Families Act (March 2014) requires Local Authorities to publish a local offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available for children and young people in their area who have special educational needs.

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up to date information about the available provision and how to access it
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children and those with SEN and their parents, and disabled young people and those with SEN, and service providers in its development and review.

Havering's Local Offer was moved to a new more accessible online platform, in March 2017.



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This has enabled the Local Offer steering group, made up of representation from Education, Health, Social Care, Leisure, Providers, Positive Parents and the Parent Forum, to co-produce and improve the content of the local offer. There is more work to be done on expanding and updating the content and resources have been identified to work on this further.

SEND Local Area Inspection Preparation

As highlighted earlier in this report Havering can expect an inspection of its SEND provision within the next three years. We have started to prepare for this by collating all key documentation relevant to the inspection, outlining roles and responsibilities in advance and during the inspection through a logistics planner. Other work that has been undertaken to date in preparation for an inspection are:

Self-Evaluation

A selection of audit tools for the Local Authority, CCG and Local Area have been released by the Council for Disabled Children (CDC). The Local Authority tool has been populated and is currently circulated within the council for consultation. The CCG Audit tool has been populated and has been passed over to the local authority who will merge the two together to form the Local Area audit and in turn will be served as our self-evaluation for the inspection.

The SEND Executive Board will receive a copy of the Local Area Audit at their September meeting, where it is envisioned that it will be agreed to send out wider for consultation, which will include schools and parents. Upon the closure of the consultation the final version will be submitted to the HWBB in November for their information and agreement.

Communication

Some information has already been provided to head teachers, parents and schools upon the launch of the SEND Local Area Inspection. However this was some time ago so a more detailed communications plan has been drawn up.

At the end of the last school term a briefing note and accompanying letter was sent to all Head Teachers of all schools within the borough. It was asked that the briefing note be disseminated to all staff and SENCO's.

A presentation, on the Local Area inspection and what will be expected from schools, will be provided to the Headteachers' Consultative Forum in October. This will be the time that any questions the head teachers have, will be able to be asked.

Tri-Borough Meetings

A Tri-borough meeting between Havering, Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham has been set up. This meeting allows for senior managers at each local authority to discuss any issues they have encountered, share good practice examples and following the B&D inspection, guidance on what is expected.

During the first meeting, which took place in May 2017, Health, better working arrangements, and placements were identified as priority areas across all three boroughs. The schedule of



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the meetings are yet to be agreed but will be discussed at the next meeting and Terms of Reference will be drawn up for all parties to agree.

Conclusion

The borough remains committed to the ongoing delivery and development of high quality support to children and young people with SEND in Havering. We are embedding a practice of strong leadership and a culture of co-production in all that we do.

It is acknowledged that there have been improvements in the way that support is delivered and recognition of areas that still need to be improved.

We are planning for an inspection that will hopefully endorse the measures we have and continue to take. The inspection will give us an external objective feedback on our ability to understand the needs of our children and young people and our ability to plan to meet their needs now and in the future.