

County Durham Integrated Steering Group for Children

Local Area SEND Inspection
Improvement progress one year on



Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to update you with our progress against the recommendations made by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in their joint Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection in Durham last year. One year has passed since the inspection was concluded. Significant progress has been made in the further implementation of the reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 over the last year. The improvements that have been made in 2018 are detailed within this document and for reference are set out against each of the written statement of action (WSOA) areas below. References contained within this document refer to individual actions in our Written Statement of Action.

Executive Summary

Significant progress has been made in 2018 against the recommendations set out in the inspection letter following the joint local area SEND inspection which can be summarised as follow:

Strategic leadership and governance of SEND reforms

A new leadership, governance and accountability framework implemented

- Senior management restructure of children and young people's services in Durham County Council establishing a Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children with responsibility for SEND
- Quality Improvement Manager post established to develop, agree and implement service transformation and practice improvement to further support children and young people with SEND
- CCG response with a revised job description for Designated Clinical Officer.
- Integration of the Quality Improvement Manager and Designated Clinical Officer through their co-location and integrated work programme
- Strengthening of political oversight of SEND issues
- Regular reporting to CCG governing bodies
- Patient congress session held to improve awareness of SEND
- Refresh of Local Area SEND Strategy coproduced with parent carer forum
- Children and Young People's Promise developed by children and young people themselves
- Participation Strategy developed by parent carer form
- Participation Strategy cited as best practice by Local Government Association
- System wide audit of SEND reforms conducted by local health service providers improving service interface for Children and Young People.
- Health needs assessment of young people with SEND commissioned by Public Health providing a deeper insight into needs for 2019

Performance management and quality assurance

- Key performance data for priority areas agreed and reporting rationalised into one document
- Clear escalation process for performance challenges established

- **Provision/Local Offer**
 - Schools support delivered through Special Educational Needs Coordinators. Attendance at network meetings improved from 126 to 145 schools
 - 16 new SENCOs completed the National Award for SEN Coordination
 - 49 autism training and development sessions ran for school staff attended by 900 people
 - A two day event ran in June 2018 on autism attended by Emily Reuben
 - Three new enhanced mainstream provisions identified for secondary school age phase
 - An eight bed 52 week residential and learning setting for young people aged 14+ jointly commissioned
- **Assessment**
 - EHCP completions within 20 weeks improved from 85% to 91%
 - New procedures introduced for Education, Health and Social Care Managers to monitor EHCP completion rates and implement learning
 - Steps taken to improve feedback response quality and rate from parent carers
- **Exclusion**
 - Behaviour Partnership Panels established to develop strategies to support young people under threat of exclusion
 - Exclusion trends monitored by Local Area with challenge and support provided to schools with high rates
- **Health**
 - Waiting times for SALT continue to improve, currently 72% of routine referrals are being seen and assessed within 6 weeks
 - Over 90% of those referrals receive treatments within 12 weeks of assessment
 - Funding increased to implement a single provider Social Communication Assessment Team (SCAT) diagnostic service
 - Waiting times for patients on SCAT waiting list has halved
 - Learning from EHCP panels shared at three half-day health focused training sessions
 - Greater scrutiny of health service provider performance
- **Social Care**
 - 481 Social Care Staff 71% of the workforce undertaken SEND awareness training
 - Revised short breaks offer introduced increasing the number of families that can access this service
- **Improving progression**
 - Supported Internship Forum established resulting in 27 new internships
 - Tri-Work Young Persons' Supported Work Experience for Schools Pilot introduced resulting in 125 young people gaining work experience
 - Children and young people carried out their own review of good practice in relation to support for young people during transition from schools to post-16 providers

- Pilot programme introduced to increase the number of young people with SEND travelling independently
- 991 young people with SEND participated in employment, education or training, 438 progressed to employment
- Reduction in young people with SEND who are not in education, employment or training reduced from 20.2% to 16.1%

Strategic planning and joint commissioning arrangements

- More integrated governance and planning arrangements introduced for commissioning. Including a balanced provider scorecard introduced to monitor performance
- Jointly funded assistive technology pilot improved the lives of six children and young people
- Service user engagement exercise for children's therapy services carried out
- Co-creation and commissioning of Durham Resilience Project to improve independence and resilience of young people with 20 schools taking part
- Five emotional health and resilience nurses commissioned
- CCGs introducing a coordinator for personal health budgets for children, 10 children and young people now have personal health budgets
- Jointly funded post for commissioning services for children with autism introduced

Approach to strategic co-production with parents and children

- Coproduction of a Participation Strategy which is cited as best practice by Local Government Association All leaders and frontline staff to be trained in the new strategy by the parent carer forum and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information and Advice Service early in the new year
- Parent Carer Forum delivered two conferences attended by over 150 parents
- SEND Toolkit developed in coproduction with parents for parents with six parent led training sessions on the toolkit delivered in 2018
- Young People's Future Event planned by young people delivered in October aimed at children and young people aged 13-25
- Children and young people supported the CCG in the children's therapies review
- 30 secondary schools and post-16 providers engaged by SENDIASS Young People's Development Worker to develop SEND practices
- 994 people attended Fulfilling Lives event resulting in 25 new enrolments of young people into higher education