

SEND Improvement Programme Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th May 2023

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Where we are

- In September 2018 Birmingham received the written statement of action (WSOA) outlining 13 significant areas of weakness after Ofsted/CQC inspection
- Re-inspection from the 24th - 27th May 2021 found that only one area of weakness had seen any improvement
- October 15th 2021 John Coughlan was appointed as Commissioner under the Statutory Direction
- Four objectives of the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP): System Leadership, Getting the Basics Right, Working Together, Pathways
- Two DfE stocktakes have taken place (June 2022, Dec 2022)
- By addressing the significant areas of weakness, local teams have made progress, evolved and practice will become Business as Usual

System Leadership (Objective 1)

- The SEND Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 21st March 2023. The SEND strategy was Co-Produced in partnership with all stakeholders, multi-agency consultations, professionals, parents and dedicated young people events
- SEND Strategy highlights eight priorities aligned with Inclusion and Change for Children priorities
- The golden thread through the strategy is lived experience of families and children
- The Graduated Approach will become a cornerstone of our approach to support settings
- Task and finish groups have commenced work turning strategy into delivery – cross partnership, multi-agency working
- Workforce development and Learning and Development approaches are being aligned across whole directorate with the Change for Children, Children and Young People's Partnership Plan

System Leadership (Objective 1)

Parent - I have found it much easier to navigate than the previous design, there are fewer steps to find the information needed.

- We have delivered an updated Local Offer Website with demonstrable uplift in users
 - 28% uplift in unique page views from 1 Jan 2023 to 1 Feb 2023 compared with the same period last year.
 - The 27,932 unique page views is 174% of the monthly target set for visitors to the site (16,000).
 - Feedback on use of the Local Offer website show 70% of people find navigation easier and more than 60% find the content helpful.

Getting the Basics Right (Objective 2)

- We have an improved, co-produced process and system for Educational Health Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA). Improved timeframes have ensured more appropriate support is delivered to CYP to meet their needs earlier
- The SENAR service has greater consistency and retention of staff compared to the same time last year
- The capacity to complete reviews and assessments of need is much more appropriate compared to the same time last year
- The SENAR service are much more accessible with dedicated phone lines for each member of the team operational since January 2023
- We have Increased the average number of annual reviews per month from 352 (2021/22) to 690 (2022/23)
- Health partners have worked and reduced waiting times for assessments in the past 9 months (see point 12 in the paper)
- We are investing in the 'The Balanced System' for Speech Language and Communication needs

Getting the Basics Right (Objective 2)

- We met the Statutory Deadlines to issue school phase transfers for EHCPs in 2023, moving from a position of 0% in 2021 to:
 - 2023 = 99% (2022 = 91%) of Reception placements were confirmed
 - 2023 = 99% (2022 = 97%) of Year 2 placements were confirmed
 - 2023 = 99% (2022 = 99%) of Secondary placements were confirmed

Working Together Well (Objective 3)

Parent - this is the first time in a very long time I know exactly who to contact when I need help, and I can actually speak to a human being

- Co-Production is a pillar of how we will work with children, young people, and families
- The Co-production Framework and Charter sets out how organisations in the SEND Partnership will work
- Four Elements of Co-Production: co-commissioning, co-design, co-delivery and co-assessment
- Monthly average of complaints down to 26 compared to 36 in 2021/22
- Over the last 6 months, mediations and tribunals are showing an improved position

Pathways (Objective 4)

- A new Inclusion Strategy approved by Cabinet on 21st March, links closely to the Birmingham Change for Children plan and contains three key principles:
 1. Recognition of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
 2. Enabling children, young people and young adults to thrive is everyone's responsibility and success is dependent on strong and effective partnership working
 3. Some children, young people and young adults currently need support in order to thrive and achieve as well as their peers.
- The 'Inclusive City' steering group will drive the inclusion agenda and support other task and finish groups turning strategy into delivery – cross partnership, multi-agency working

Pathways (Objective 4)

- Phase 1 of the Developing Local Provision (DLP) project
 - £14 Million investment into mainstream schools and EY Settings to develop SEND assistance
 - very successful outcomes and progress, e.g.
 - 29% increase in SEND pupils achieving the expected standard – Year 1 Phonics screening
 - 18.6% increase in SEND pupils reaching early learning goals in Reading
- DLP Phase 2 funding agreed to continue with embedding inclusive practice
- Roadshows launching during April and May - teams are working with education settings to deliver intervention.
- Non-negotiable KPIs related to improving attainment, progress, attendance and reducing suspensions and exclusions (for children and young people with additional needs)

What we are doing now

- Embedding quality assurance systems (QA) to build and learn upon best practice, our multi-agency working, and to deliver better services
- Mobilising and delivering against the priorities within both the SEND and the Inclusion Strategies via task and finish groups
- DLP Phase 2 to focus on attainment, progress and outcomes for children and young people
- Continue to work with education settings to create supportive and inclusive environments
- Development of partnership-wide Learning and Development and Workforce planning
- Collating, recording and reporting of data across the partnership (Plans to build a dedicated data team September 2023)
- Numerous health initiatives to reduce waiting times for initial assessment and services
- Preparing the partnership for Ofsted and CQC inspections through reinforcement, co-production and much more.



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