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

17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services Helen Ellis, Director of SEND and Inclusion

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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 24<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 found that only one area of weakness had seen any improvement
- October 15<sup>th</sup> 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

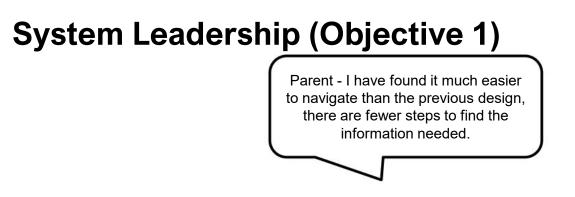


## System Leadership (Objective 1)

- 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







- 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)

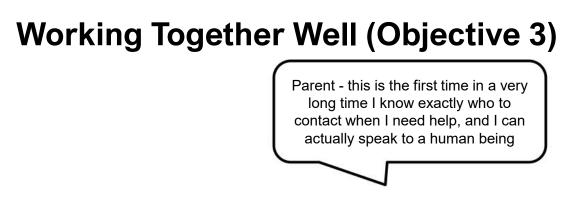
- We have an improved, co-produced process and system for Educational Health Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA). Improved timeframes have ensured more appropriate support is delivered to CYP to meet their needs earlier
- The SENAR service has greater consistency and retention of staff compared to the same 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





- 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 coassessment
- 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, coproduction and much more.





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