

Accelerated Progress Plan – Update / Highlight Report since July 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7th September 2022



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CHILDREN'S TRUST



The Birmingham C&F Directorate vision

Birmingham Children Thrive

All children and young people are Safe,
Healthy, Included, Confident and
Achieving

They are supported by a Children's Services
Directorate that has strong governance and
management, engaged staff, clear strategy

and

Partnership organisations across the city that work
together as one system putting children and families
at the heart of everything they do

Birmingham Children Thrive



Safe



Achieving



Included



Confident



Healthy

Delivered through our principles:

- Identifying and supporting early aiming to get it right first time
- Professionals and services that wrap around our children and families
- **Strengths based and relationship based practice** with our children, families, each other and our partners

The national consultation on SEND and inclusion

- The green paper, “Right support, right place, right time”, commits to identifying children’s needs more quickly.
- Education secretary Nadhim Zahawi says it will also restore families’ trust in an “inclusive education system with excellent mainstream provision that puts children and young people first”.
- The proposed policies look to establish a “single national SEND and alternative provision system that sets clear standards for the provision that children and young people should expect to receive”.

What does the commissioner say?

- John Coughlan, DfE SEND Commissioner references in his report that:

“There is a crisis of appropriate provision for SEND children in Birmingham which will need collective will to address. One element of that is that there are not enough children with EHCPs that are being supported by mainstream schools in a system which simply isn’t consistently inclusive enough. On the other hand, he has seen at first hand some excellent inclusive schools and school leaders whose work can be replicated.”

Evolution of Local Strategies

- The developments for the key local strategies within the APP are going well.
- Objective 1 is developing strategies for
 - i) SEND;
 - ii) Learning and Development, and;
 - iii) Workforce Development
- Objective 4 is developing
 - i) the Inclusion Strategy
- Co-Production principles are being followed to develop the above

Things we learned from the co-production workshops for SEND & Inclusion strategies

- 1) Pooled resource and collaborative deployment;
- 2) **District** working, 'team around the school';
- 3) **Stronger data recording** to inform decision making and analysis of trends and for forecasting for the future;
- 4) Statutory functions, clearly defined responsibilities and resourced appropriately;
- 5) Delivering a **graduated response** so that needs are met earlier and trust is built;
- 6) **Capacity and sufficiency required** with peer to peer support and outreach;
- 7) **Learning** from existing good practice in Birmingham;
- 8) Communication and sharing for every stakeholder about who does what in 'The System';

Key data

- SENAR currently maintains 11,421 EHCPs
- In August 2021 SENAR maintained 10,914 EHCPs
- 2,048 new assessment requests were received in the last 12 months
- 1,231 new EHCPs were issued in the last 12 months
- In July 2021 51% of plans were issued within the 20 week statutory timeframe
- In July 2022 66% of plans were issued within the 20 week statutory timeframe (National Indicator is 65%)
- The number of annual reviews needing to be completed has reduced from 4,500 to 720 as at end of July 2022
- The number of annual reviews undertaken by the team is increasing month on month to continue to clear the backlog whilst maintaining new reviews as they fall due.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
344	346	632	859	1085

- As confirmed at the last meeting of this committee, 98% of all 'Phase Transfers' were completed for the 2022/23 academic year compared to 1% the previous year.
- The phase transfer process for Sept 2023 has begun.

Objective 1 – System Leadership

- Local Offer website has been refreshed with really good input from users (parents/carers and young people) to support changes.
- These include the navigation around the site, the presentation and look and feel of the site and the background functionality, ensuring information is easier to access and more swiftly.
- Further refreshing to the Local Offer website will be taking place in the coming months.
- An apprentice post is being recruited to which will have a responsibility for maintaining up-to-date information and working with stakeholders to improve the social media and digital content of the and from the Local Offer website.
- Data Sharing Agreement refresh and processes ready for signing

Objective 2 – Getting the Basics Right

- Standard Operating Procedures have been written and are being refined for the 'core' processes
- Quality Assurance Framework has been developed and finalised
- Recruitment Drive underway for maintaining appropriate staffing levels in SENAR
- Review and adjustments to therapy offer has been completed and implementation of the changes will commence at the start of the Autumn term.

Objective 3 – Working Together Well

- Worked so well together, objective now ‘signed off’ (at last SIB) and activities to be embedded as Business As Usual across local area
- Co-Production Framework and Charter, Comms and Engagement Strategy and Independent Review of SENDIASS complete
- Participation and Co-Production Officer functions and JD completed and ready to recruit to
- Youth Engagement events took place in July and survey issued to gather intelligence from young people
- Over 100 responses to the survey received and it will close in September.

Objective 4 - Pathways

- Working group well established and starting to build on and develop the local pathways for post-16 options and improve tracking processes
- Working group for 'Out of School Process' is reviewing current systems, assessing impact of the new attendance guidance and identifying where improvements can be made
- DLP delivering some really good outcomes and review to be published in September to share the learning
- Special Schools Outreach Support to be delivered in Autumn term

Golden threads within objectives to deliver greatest impact

- Graduated Response to supporting children and young people
- Child centred (not process/service) approach
- Co-Production and hearing the voice of the child
- Support for settings/services to deliver early intervention
- District working with potential for local decision making
- Multi-agency training and interactions across the local area
- Improved data recording and reporting
- Greater number of children and young people educated in mainstream settings in line with their needs and a graduated response

SENDIASS Review and Actions

Context/Summary

Independent Review undertaken by National Children's Bureau

All recommendations from the review are accepted in principle with the full support of the commissioner, pending a full report to this board

- A particular focus on compliance with the statutory minimum standards
- Co-production to ensure stakeholders are taken 'on the journey' is crucial
- No families will be disadvantaged by the changes as we carefully manage the transition

SENDIASS Review and Actions

Actions and next steps

- Work has commenced to ensure any statutory or early help social care (casework) functions are continued. Current staff who provide this support will transition to Birmingham Children's Trust where they will be supported and supervised. Family support will not be disrupted.
- SENDIASS core work will remain with the current SENDIASS team. The SENDIASS team will continue to provide valuable advice regarding the SEND code of practice and support families as they navigate through the complex SEND system.
- The timetable to implement the SENDIASS service recommendations will run from now until approximately September 2023 so we can ensure all stakeholders are briefed and co-production can be delivered effectively.
- The SENDIASS service will comply with all the minimum statutory requirements by September 2023 and a Compliance Roadmap will be presented to the SEND Improvement Board in January 2023 to demonstrate how compliance will be achieved.



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