

SEND INSPECTION – UPDATE REPORT

Birmingham SEND Improvement Programme

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Birmingham
City Council



BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST

Birmingham City Council
Birmingham Children's Trust
NHS Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS Providers

Joint Ofsted and CQC Inspection

- Aim of the inspection was to review the effectiveness of the area in implementing the **special educational needs and disability (SEND)** reforms as set out in the **Children and Families Act 2014**.
- The Statutory Duty falls on the City Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group; working in partnership with Education, The Childrens Trust, adult social care and wider health provider partners.
- The report findings highlighted a small number of areas where practice was strong; however, a number of **significant improvements** were urgently need to be made.
- This work is being **prioritised** by all organisations involved, to ensure a clear focus on **improving standards** and **addressing the concerns** that have been identified. With the collective aim of commissioning and providing an excellent service for children, carers and parents in Birmingham
- **Written Statement of Action** was submitted and approved by Ofsted and CQC in December 2018.

Birmingham SEND Inspection Response

A joined up response with collective accountability

Strategic Leads:

- Birmingham and Solihull CCG – Rachel O'Connor (SRO)
- Birmingham City Council – Dr Tim O'Neill
- Birmingham Children's Trust – Jeanette Young
- Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust – Claire Paintain

Our Collective Commitment

There needs to be **fundamental change** and **improvement** in how we **work together** and **provide care and services** to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.

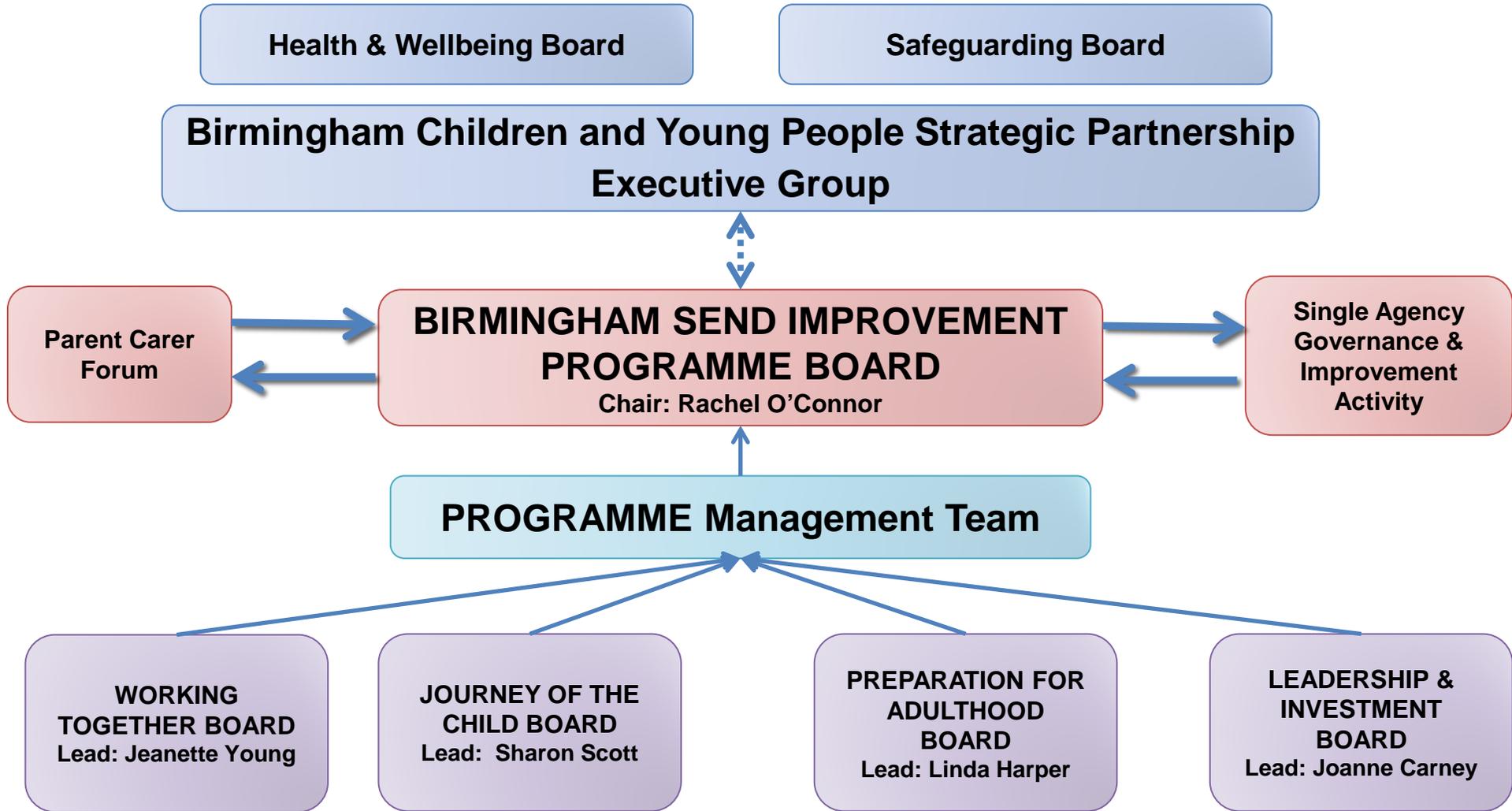
We recognise that Birmingham's implementation of the Statutory SEND reforms has collectively not been good enough.

We need to make **significant improvements** to how we **strategically plan and deliver services** in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

We need to **improve how we work with children, families and carers** and with other organisations.

We have to **improve our effectiveness** in **identifying** children and young people's special educational needs and disabilities, in **assessing and meeting these needs** and we need to improve our **effectiveness in improving outcomes** for children and young people with SEND.

SEND Improvement Programme Governance



Note: Due to the profile of this work, other bodies may require updates on progress.

Process for the development of the WSoA included:

- Multi agency partnership approach – all committed to responding to the inspection findings.
- Two workshop sessions with parent and carers.
- Outcomes were co-produced with parents and carers.
- Engagement with school heads from across the city
- Parents and Carers survey - over 250 responses, supported by the Voluntary sector.
- Consultation with the schools forum.

Overview of Monitoring Process

- The Written Statement of Action contains the partnership response to the inspection findings.
- Based on this the SEND Board has developed a detailed (30 page) action plan that outlines the actions required by the four workstreams.
- The SEND Board will monitor progress against the action plan on a fortnightly basis.
- NHS England and a DfE Regional advisor will undertake monitoring visits every three months, starting in Jan 2019.
- Ofsted and the CQC will re-visit the area to check on progress within 18 months of the WSOA being agreed.

Progress so far

- Leadership and Investment
 - Establishment of Senior Responsible Officer and Programme Office
 - Establishment of SEND Improvement Team and fortnightly Improvement Board
 - Establishment of Children's Strategic Partnership Executive and developing workplan
 - Established four workstream groups to deliver WSOA
 - SEND JSNA due February 2019
 - Joint Commissioning - mandate to develop proposal agreed
 - Baseline review of services – underway
 - Children's Improvement Forum – November
 - Two Ofsted and CQC monitoring visits held
 - Multiagency review of complex children across the City – workshop

Progress so far

Journey of the Child

- Journey of Child workshop – November.
- Review of SENAR complaints completed.
- New EHCP request form completed.

- Preparing for Adulthood

- Workstream aligned and joined up with Birmingham Transitions strategy.

• Working Together

- Approval of waiting list initiative for CDC, for all children due to start school
- Survey with parents, carers, children, young people reflections on current service offer and areas for improvement, their priorities to inform WSoA
- Establishment and re-launch of parent carer forum – formally on the 28th March 2019

Action's and Impact so far

- Working Together
 - Good School engagement in sufficiency planning and as a SEND reference group.
 - Number of complaints from parents, carers in relation to SEND has reduced 28% since 2017.
 - Training package for assessment report writing (including voice of the child) was completed in December - Currently rolled out to Children's Trust and Education staff.
 - Refreshing Local Offer – ready for launch in March 2019
 - New digital approach to for CYP and parents carers to tell their story once as part of care plans, using new web based WIKI - involving 1000 children and young people purchased.
- Journey of the Child
 - SEN support plan pilot now live - across 36 settings – valued by parents, carers and professionals.
 - Prioritising children who currently do not have a suitable school place into any new/expanded provision – eg Boldmere Primary resource base for children with autism

Action's and Impact so far

- Preparing for Adulthood
 - A review of EHCP's for CYP at transition reduced overall numbers by 300.
 - Health transition plans in place for all year 14 young people; circa 250
- Leadership and Investment
 - Increased clinical leadership - DCO and DMO capacity – 1.0wte DMO started January, 1.0wte DCO starts in March.
 - Increased LAC nursing WTE will reduce case loads from over 600 to 180 by Feb 2019, caseloads reduced to 320 in November 18
 - Children's Improvement Forum held 86 leaders, stakeholders, parents/carers shaping our collective values and common purpose for leading strategic improvements for local Childrens and families.
 - Multi-partner funding for a Birmingham childrens multi-partnership improvement team.

Over the next six months

- Complete best practice review
- Finalise Birmingham SEND strategy
- Agree investment priorities as a partnership
- Implement quality assurance framework for EHC Plans
- Create a partnership scorecard on SEND performance
- Finalisation with the parent/carer forum our SEND outcomes framework
- Conduct sufficiency review of current provision
- Develop a programme of workforce engagement
- Agree the roadmap for integrated commissioning
- A reduction in childrens therapies waiting list.

Longer term

- More early help for parents and carers.
- Reduced waiting times for therapies
- Parent and Carer satisfaction significantly increased

Risks

- Leadership continuity – a number of ‘interim’ senior managers supporting the programme
- Co-production – Ensuring we the build trust and confidence of our children and families
- Insufficient resources - to achieve the scale of change
- Long waiting times, and high thresholds for some key therapy services
- Need as measured by a number of indicators continuing to grow
- Challenging environment for agencies across Birmingham, including the city council.

For discussion

- What would be the preferred approach by O&S to remain briefed on SEND improvements?
- What would be the preferred approach for O&C to be assured that we are on-track with delivery and bring about improvements for our children and young people?
- Would a regular member briefing session be supported by O&C?