

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2020-21

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
17 Jul 2020	SEND Home to School Transport Update	SEND Dashboard	E-mailed Members the information on 25 th August 2020.
		Details regarding SEND Youth Forum	E-mailed Members the information on 25 th August 2020.
		WSoA Action Plan and Progress	E-mailed Members 16 th September 2020 & to be discussed at the October 2020 meeting.
		A simple snapshot showing what the council has contracted for against what is being delivered.	Daily calculations are assessed in relation to route cancelations. For a period of 3 weeks at the beginning of the Autumn Term, 4 % of cancelations related to one operator. Once remedial action was put into place, the majority of cancelled route have been in relation to Covid isolation issues.
17 Jul 2020	Work Programme Discussion	A short report be provided to the scrutiny office to be circulated to members on any re-start issues with Home to School Transport following the return to school in September.	<p>The Chief Executive has commissioned Ernst & Young to undertake this task. Their brief is to review the service and provide recommendations for the medium to longer term. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing the circumstances that led to the service failures in the run up to and at the start of term; • a critical assessment of the improvement planning arrangements; • their recommendations about how those arrangements need to be strengthened; • and a transparent road map for service recovery and improvement with clear milestones and dependencies highlighted. <p>To this end, they will produce a report that answers the points above, which will form the basis of an improvement</p>

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			<p>programme that the council will take forward. This programme will specify the resources required as well as map all necessary dependencies.</p> <p>This report will be presented to the relevant council committee to ensure complete transparency.</p>
16 Sep 2020	Covid-19 Impact on Schools and Preparations for Return to School in September 2020	<p>Regular updates on the school's inability of staff and pupils to access Covid-19 tests.</p> <p>The number of children and teachers isolating.</p>	<p>Education and Skills officers do not have the information for all the 443 schools in relation to the inability of staff and pupils to access Covid-19 tests.</p> <p>As at 18.11.20 the numbers of isolating pupils and teachers/teaching assistants were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28,818 pupils are currently isolating, almost 25k of which are as a result of a contact within the setting. • 889 teachers and 987 teaching assistants are currently isolating. <p>As at 25.11.20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26,408 pupils are isolating, a reduction from the numbers earlier in the week. • Teachers – 849 • Teaching assistants - 993
		<p>The number of school admission appeals this year and the projection for 2021.</p>	<p>E-mailed to Members on the 5th November 2020 and requested information on children with SEND and Children in Care. This was e-mailed on the 10th November 2020.</p>
		<p>The presentation on online learning.</p>	<p>E-mailed to Members on the 17th September 2020.</p>

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		Dr Tim O'Neill undertook to take back the decision to not issue additional PPE to City of Birmingham School (COBS).	E-mailed information to Members on the 2 nd November 2020.
		A letter to be sent to the Cabinet Member regarding Member's concerns that schools are being re-charged for the free school meals voucher scheme.	Letter sent on 25 th September 2020 and response received from Cllr Francis on 1 st October 2020.
16 Sep 2020	SEND Response to Covid	Officers to check and report back on the answer in C8 written question regarding post 16 and those that are out of time.	E-mailed information to Members on the 22 nd September 2020.
		A report on children's with SEND needs not being met in schools because of capacity and Covid.	Emailed Members the information on 28 th October 2020.
		A report on the communications and problems that occurred with the new on-line system for bus passes over the summer.	<p>The council's target for processing bus passes is 20 working days from receipt of the bus pass. In September the council failed to meet this target.</p> <p>The service has put in place additional capacity to administer the process within 20 working days and are currently dealing with the backlog with the aim for this to be completed by the end of November.</p> <p>The council have noted that the on-line system is only part developed. Further work has been escalated, to ensure that the on-line system is fully operational, providing the service with a mapping system and measuring tool for a walking route which will allow for more automated decisions.</p>
		A report on DBS compliance to be provided.	The Chief Executive has commissioned an investigation.

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			To this end, a report will be issues and presented to the relevant council committee to ensure complete transparency.
		A report on how schools notify problems with home to school transport to the Council.	Weekly calls are undertaken with special schools, providing an overview of the failures from providers. The returns are reported to the team lead for safeguarding and compliance and form part of the quality assurance programme, alongside the work of the compliance officers who undertake site visits.
16 Sep 2020	Other Urgent Business	An informal meeting of the committee to be arranged to discuss the outcomes of the home to school transport inquiry.	Held this on the 16 th October 2020.
28 Oct 2020	SEND WSOA Update	Scrutiny to be kept updated on the self-assessments.	
		Dr Tim O'Neill will look at what the Local Offer does and doesn't say in relation to SENDIASS and the advertising of the service and report back.	The new BCC Local Offer website is on track to being completed by 30th November 2020 – the agreed deadline. It has been co-produced with the PCF. Information about SENDIASS can be found within the Parents and Carers section of the website: https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/parents-and-carers/parent-carer-services/
		An update and overview of the commissioning piece of work in relation to capacity and reach and SENDIASS.	Compliance assessment against the minimums standards has been undertaken. Consultation to go out to parents/ carers, CYP and professionals for their thoughts on the service. Best practice review underway. Soft market test to be started to look at how the market would respond should the decision

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		<p>An overview of the relationships and how families are benefitting from the Parent Link Service and how this links to the CCG, to ensure health services are delivered to children and the school networks and the bridging team.</p>	<p>be made to externalise the service following an options appraisal.</p> <p>Parent Link Officers work alongside all agencies to seek a resolution, improving the outcomes for the child/young person. The team consists of one team coordinator, and 5 Parent Link Officers. The service has successfully recruited a 6th member of the team who will start in November so that the service will work in line with the new Locality model and each locality will have a designated Parent Link Officer. The calls are received through the contact line and are primarily to provide information and to signpost. Where appropriate the caller can be signposted to a Parent Link Officer or a link professional. The themes for the referrals received are primarily linked to requests for an EHCP assessment, school placements, general advice and guidance.</p> <p>At the moment cases are assigned to the appropriate officer according to their area of expertise; one officer has experience of working in SEND and Inclusion with parents and families and within SENAR; one has experience of working with Post 16 students and counselling, particularly within that age range, one officer has experience of supporting families at the point of diagnosis in a multi-agency environment and the other two officers have experience working within an education environment, supporting young people and families. Requests for information are sent to Link Advisors who are professionals</p>

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			<p>working within the locality and have knowledge of the young person/school/setting.</p> <p>The Parent Link Coordinator is part of Multi-Agency Decision Making Groups for EHCP decisions on assessment & issue and liaises specifically with a Community Speech & Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist around the provision of monthly webinars for parents.</p>
		<p>Information on the remedial action plan that is being developed regarding the waiting times for therapies. This is to include how it works and builds capacity, so the system has the confidence and expertise at all levels to support children and this is to include the health input. Rachel O'Connor is happy to attend a future committee meeting to discuss this item with Birmingham Community Healthcare (BCHC).</p> <p>Confirmation as to whether the refreshed SEND Strategy went to Cabinet.</p>	<p>As a starting point to restarting this service there were 19 cases</p> <p>4 (approx. 20%) are now closed:</p> <p>2 changed their mind and went to appeal instead of through mediation</p> <p>1 is inappropriate for mediation as it is a complex social care case</p> <p>1 was closed as we worked with family to improve</p> <p>Of the 19 cases</p> <p>15 are for referral to assess (80%)</p> <p>2 are for refusal to issue (10%)</p> <p>2 are about final content (10%)</p> <p>75% of requested mediation is from Kids, 15% is from SEN Mediation and 10% is from Prime Resolutions</p>

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		Officers to check whether the completed baseline of SEND services can be shared with the Committee.	
		Details on the reduction of mediations including figures, reasons and comparative data.	
		Alan Michell to be invited to a meeting to cover school absence and exclusions and this is to include children with SEND and the interplay between the different teams.	Programmed for the 20 th January 2021 committee meeting.
		The SEND Improvement Board reports to be sent to scrutiny on a monthly basis.	
		The committee to have regular updates on progress and the leadership teams / forums.	Marie Dobson to action
		The Chair requested the committee be forwarded copies of the minutes from the self reflecting meeting.	Members e-mailed the Family Support Strategic Management Meetings paper on the 17 th November 2020.
		Clarity on how parents and carers are elected onto the Parent Carer Forum.	
28 Oct 2020	Youth Service	Update on the early help and prevention strategy and how the Youth Service fit into this vision.	
		What portion, if any, of the Government's Covid support money was allocated to the Youth Service?	

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		Timeline and plan for the Commonwealth Games proposals, including the legacy.	
		The Youth Service to be invited back in the Spring and the Community Safety Partnership to be invited to the Committee (Cllr Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities).	
28 Oct 2020	Other Urgent Business	Exclusions to be added to the work programme.	Programmed for the 20 th January 2021 committee meeting.