

Report Title:	SEND Area Inspection Update
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?	NO - Part I
Member reporting:	Councillor Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet – May 24th 2018
Responsible Officer(s):	Kevin McDaniel, Director of Children's Services
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

In July 2017, services in the areas provided to children with special educational needs/disabilities (SEND) were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The inspection concluded that the services needed to improve under the leadership of the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), this report summarises the progress made against the action plan to improve services.

The action plan, called a Written Statement of Action and appended at appendix A, has set out 107 actions grouped under eight themes that the CCG, schools, the parent forum (PaCiP) and the local authority agreed with Ofsted would be implemented. Progress on delivering the activities is underway and at the end of April 2018, 17 actions have been completed; five are yet to start and the rest are in progress. The overall plan is on track to complete during the autumn of 2018.

A number of significant milestones have been achieved, including:

1. The conversion of all 750 statements of special education needs into Education Health and Care plans (EHC) was achieved by the end of March 2018: a statutory requirement that not all local authorities succeeded in meeting.
2. An Inclusion Summit held on April 19th 2018 attended by 174 parents/carers, schools/colleges, services and professionals. This was the first annual event and demonstrated the strengthening commitment to work together so that the Royal Borough becomes a positive beacon of inclusion for young people (0 to 25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities.
3. An Inclusion Charter for the local area that sets out shared expectations on how a child or young person can expect to feel and be treated when accessing local services has been created and can be adopted across the Borough.

1 DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet:

- i) Notes the report and endorses the work undertaken to meet the statutory deadline of converting all statements of educational needs to EHC plan by the due date
- ii) Notes progress on the delivery of 107 actions in the action plan and request an update in October 2018.

2 REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Current status

- 2.1 Local area inspections are carried out by Ofsted and the CQC to jointly inspect services in the local area to see how well they fulfil their responsibilities for children and young people with SEND.
- 2.2 The SEND action plan is divided in to 8 key themes with specific outcomes to address the areas for improvement. There are 107 identified actions that set out how these outcomes will be met. Actions are rated on a scale of blue (meaning complete) to red (meaning current delivery concerns).
- 2.3 A Steering Board meets monthly to monitor progress and to receive exception reports. Governance of the Written Statement of Action (WOSA) rests with the Health and Wellbeing Board as agreed at the extraordinary meeting of this body on 12th February 2018. The delivery of the WOSA rests with a working group made up of representatives from the local authority, schools, health and PaCiP. This group also meets monthly. All actions are linked to one of four workstreams (WS1 to WS4) which provide leadership for the actions. The WOSA as at 10 May 2018 is included in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 External monitoring of the action plan is carried out by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England on a quarterly basis, these visits are attended by representatives of the Steering Board.
- 2.5 All actions are due for completion by September 2018 and the plan is on track to complete by autumn 2018. The current summary progress is set out in table 1.

2.6 Table 1: Written Statement of Action progress summary

Theme number	BRAG Status					Total
	Green (on track)	Amber (minor issue)	Red (significant issue)	Blue (complete)	White (not started)	
1	10	1	0	5	1	17
2	13	8	0	2	1	24
3	2	2	2	3	1	10
4	4	4	1	0	0	9
5	1	8	0	1	1	11
6	8	3	2	5	1	19
7	9	2	0	0	0	11
8	2	2	1	1	0	6
Total	49	30	6	17	5	107

2.7 Table 1 indicates there are 6 actions graded as Red. These were presented to the Steering Board in April and remedial action was agreed to ensure these actions are delivered within the overall WOSA timetable.

2.8 The 6 red actions cover four activities:

- A review of the matrix used to assess the level of pupil need in mainstream school which is dependent on the successful establishment of the SENCO network.
- Agreement of information and datasets that will be regularly updated on the Local Offer which is being reviewed in light of feedback from the Inclusion Summit.
- Review of the proposed use of text messaging for feedback in light of concerns from some parents.
- The implementation of a change to the local authority ICT system which requires custom development by a scarce resource. A manual report is in place to address the concern raised in the inspection.

Key achievements

2.9 The conversion of all 750 statements of special education needs into Education Health and Care plans (EHC), a statutory requirement that not all local authorities succeeded in achieving, was completed by the end of March 2018.

2.10 In January 2018, PaCiP organised a very successful Parent Information Session attended by 50 parents. The local authority, health and PaCiP presented the action plan. The event was positive and all parties have reported feeling energised by the developments. Workshop sessions were held at the end that kickstarted specific pieces of work, for example the Inclusion Charter.

2.11 An Inclusion Charter will be widely used by all stakeholders in the local area to demonstrate their commitment to ensuring children, young people and their families can be included. This sets out our expectations on how a child or young person can expect to feel and be treated when accessing local services.

2.12 The Education Leadership Forum met in January and were led through the action plan by a headteacher colleague who is a member of the SEND Steering Board. Delivery of many aspects of the action plan is dependent on school leadership and the engagement of schools varies across the local area. Improving this engagement is a focus for the education workstream.

2.13 The SEND Strategy has been published with four priorities. An Implementation Plan for the strategy is being prepared by one of the workstreams.

2.14 An Inclusion Summit was held on April 19th 2018 attended by 174 parents/carers, schools/colleges, services and professionals. This was the first annual event to show case how we are coming together to make the Royal Borough a positive beacon of inclusion for young people (0 to 25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities. This Summit provided feedback on the Inclusion Charter, a draft is included in appendix B, and the final version will be presented to Council for consideration in due course.

- 2.15 The keynote speaker, Carrie Grant gave an inspirational talk to the attendees that promoted open and honest dialogue to problem solve together. Her words were thought provoking for all. The feedback forms asked people to state what three things they would do differently and nearly all said they would think about how they communicate with parents/professionals. An event evaluation report is being reviewed by the partners and will be used to update the WOSA and the planning for the 2019 Inclusion Summit.
- 2.16 The Local Offer has been in place since 2014 and although Ofsted felt it was a valuable resource families have reported that it is hard to navigate and to find relevant information. In response to user feedback it is intended to move our local offer to the format already in place in Achieving for Children by September 2018, which has secured significantly better user feedback.
- 2.17 A multi agency audit group, including parents has been set up to look at EHC Plans. Thematic audits will happen three times a year and findings will be used to highlight good practice and to make improvements.

3 KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There is a need to ensure that the action plan remains on track in all areas. A short term Project Lead has been agreed for this task. They will be responsible for keeping the workstreams on task and for updating the action plan for scrutiny by the steering board, the DfE, council and other bodies.
- 3.2 There are two further monitoring visits by the DfE and NHS England before Ofsted will decide whether they are able to sign off or action plan as complete.
- 3.3 It is proposed therefore that a further update on progress is given in October 2018.

Table 2: Key implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
3rd Monitoring Visit by DfE and NHS England	Significant concerns raised	No significant concerns raised	No concerns raised		End June 2018
4 th Monitoring Visit by DfE and NHS England	Significant concerns raised	No significant concerns raised	No concerns raised		End September 2018
Written statement signed off as complete by Ofsted	Timescale extension requested by Ofsted.	Sign off	Sign off by end of September 2018		End October 2018

4 FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 The costs of delivering services for this cohort of pupils are met from the dedicated Schools Grant which is split between specific need services and the budget provided to each school.
- 4.2 The Schools Forum have agreed 0.5% transfer of funding to the High Needs block for 2018/2019 in order to focus on innovation leading to a higher level of Inclusion in our local area. It is expected that this innovation will reduce the pressure on the High Needs spending which is currently contributing to a deficit balance within the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 4.3 The Better Care Fund (BCF) has approved £150k for three years for three stands of work. These are complex case management, working on an Area SENCO model where clusters of schools work together to improve practice and capacity to support our children and young people and developing process for managing SEND provision in our schools.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The local authority has a responsibility to ensure young people with additional needs have access to an appropriate education as set out in regulations for EHC plans. Health and schools have responsibilities to provide services to meet the needs of young people in the area. The action plan is a shared responsibility with the Clinical Commissioning Group and PaCiP

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 While completion of the action plan and Ofsted sign off is important it is vital that all stakeholders embed improvements within their service area in the longer term. Children, young people and their families need to continue to be actively involved in the shaping and creation of relevant services.

7 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 7.1 There are no impacts arising from this report, however any changes proposed as a result of the action plan must consider the needs of those impacted, especially those with a disability in this case.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The live action plan is on the Local Offer at all times.
- 8.2 PaCiP actively publish all documents and promote activity on their website and on social media
- 8.3 Parent Information session in January 2018
- 8.4 Educational Leadership Forum in January 2018
- 8.5 Governance by the Health and Well- Being Board
- 8.6 Monthly SEND Board meetings
- 8.7 Monthly Working Group meetings
- 8.8 Inclusion Summit. – April 2018

9 TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 The action plan is in progress and will run to Autumn 2018.

10 APPENDICES

10.1 The appendices to the report are as follows:

- Written Statement of Action.
- Draft Inclusion Charter

11 CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date issued for comment	Date returned with comments
Cllr Airey	Lead Member – Children’s Services	26/4/2018	26/4/2018
Alison Alexander	Managing Director	26/4/2018	27/4/2018
Russell O’Keefe	Executive Director		
Andy Jeffs	Executive Director		
Rob Stubbs	Section 151 Officer		
Nikki Craig	Head of HR and Corporate Projects		
Louisa Dean	Communications		
	Other e.g. external		

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To Follow item?
For information	No	No
Report Author: Debbie Verity, Service Lead CYPDS x 5878		

Report title:
SEND Area Inspection
Update
Member reporting:
Cllr Airey
Cabinet meeting: 24th
May 2018

What is this report about?

- This report updates Cabinet on the progress of the SEND Action Plan.

What is it recommending? That Cabinet:

- i) Notes the progress of the action plan and hears about the developments and activities that have taken place to date to ensure that children and young people with additional needs/disabilities in the local area achieve their full potential.

What is the background?

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission carried out a local area inspection in July 2017 and while they identified areas of strength they decided that the local area should address areas of weakness by means of an Action Plan.

Why is this being done?

The Action Plan is subject to governance by the Health and Well-Being Board. Delivery of the actions is managed by a multi-agency Steering Board and Working Group. Overall monitoring of progress is carried out by the DfE on behalf of Ofsted. There are 107 actions on the plan, only 6 are currently causing concern while 17 are complete and 49 are fully on track.

How much would it cost?

Additional resources for a three year period totalling £450,000 have been awarded by the Better Care Fund. In addition, Schools Forum have agreed a 0.5% transfer of funding from the schools block to the High Needs block to support innovation and inclusion in our local schools. This £416,000 is a one off amount.

How would it benefit residents?

Families who have a child or young person with additional needs will have confidence in local services and will be at the heart of all decision making and service developments.

When would it take effect?

The Action Plan will be in effect until September 2018 or until the DfE recommends that it is signed off by Ofsted.

Key communication message:

Good progress has been achieved on the plan actions to date and there is a much improved culture of partnership commitment to improving SEND provision and services.