

WOSA Steering Board -Chairs report Number 1 January 2018

Please can I introduce myself, I am Sarah Bellars, Director of Nursing for the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) in East Berkshire, I have been appointed as the chair of the area's WSOA implementation steering board. I have committed to producing a Chairs report following each steering board meeting during 2018.

Between 3 July 2017 and 7 July 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of Education, Social care and Health services within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) local area to judge its effectiveness in implementing the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. As a result of the findings of the inspection, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) determined that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) is required to address eight areas of significant weakness in the local area's practice

The Council and the CCG were jointly responsible for submitting the written statement, which has been produced in conjunction with Parents and Carers in Partnership (PaCiP).

The Written Statement of Action to Ofsted was required to explain how the local area will tackle the following areas of significant weakness:

- tardiness and delay in establishing strategies to implement the reforms effectively
- the lack of leadership capacity across local area services, such as the time given to the role of the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO)
- poor use of management information to secure a robust overview of the local area's effectiveness
- weaknesses in how leaders are held to account across the local area
- the inequality of access to services and variability of experience for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families
- the wide variances in the quality of education, health and care plans caused by weaknesses in the planning and transition processes
- the lack of effective co-production with parents when designing and delivering services and when planning for their individual children's needs
- poor joint commissioning arrangements that limit leader's ability to ensure that there are adequate services to meet local area needs.

The WSOA that was submitted to OFSTED within the required timescale, however OFSTED required further detail on some of the areas, the updated written statement of action was resubmitted on the 4th of January 2018.

The first monitoring meeting was held on the 18th of December, the key purpose of this meeting was to review the feedback from OFSTED to ensure that the next submission of the WSOA contained the additional details sought by OFSTED.

The steering board met for the second time on the 19th of December, the group welcomed Chris Tomes who has joined the group to represent secondary school Headteachers.

The steering board will meet at least once each half term until the end of the summer term to ensure that the WSOA and SEND implementation continues at pace.

The meeting reviewed the key progress made since the inspection:

- The SEND strategy consultation continues and will be officially launched at the first local area inclusion summit on the 19th April 2018, alongside an inclusion charter, that will make it clear so every child and their family understand the commitments that all parts of the system have made to help them succeed.
- PaCIP have been welcomed as partners and ‘critical friends’ to support the local area to fully implement the SEND reforms and deliver the WSOA and ensure the voice of parents, carers and children are heard. The next meeting will take place on 18 January and all parents and carers are welcome to hear about the plan in more detail and contribute to the next steps to make it a reality.
- The Council’s Director of Children’s Services (DCS) has successfully submitted a bid to the Better Care Fund for an additional £150,000 for additional staff for the next three years. This capacity will provide two types of support: complex case experience to support the development of Education, Health and Care plans; and school experience to help develop wider inclusive practice for all young people with additional needs.
- The CCG has reviewed and increased the capacity of the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO), amongst other things this will support the quality of the health input into EHCPs.
- Local schools, via the Schools Forum, have agreed to release £416,000 in the next financial year to jointly commission services that will support increased equality and inclusion in all schools. In the longer term this will reduce the demand on places in independent schools a long way from the borough
- The CCGs have identified an £90,000 to commission an additional 50 ASD assessments to target the longest waiters on the autism pathway.

- The chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board has set an Extraordinary Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on the 12th of February 2018 as this is the formal governance for this work. This is a meeting in public and will be held in Maidenhead Town Hall.

The next steering board meeting is being held on 23rd January 2018

If you would like any further information about the work that local area is undertaking including the Terms of reference for the Steering Board and its minutes. Please visit the Local Offer to see the full WSOA, these reports and access a wide range of services. It can be accessed via

<http://directory.rbwm.gov.uk/kb5/rbwm/directory/localoffer.page?familieschannel=3>