

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy & Partnership Board

14 November 2023, 11.00 – 13.00

Conference Hall, Chichester College

Brian Pope, Independent Chair

WSSCC

Lucy Butler, Director of Children's Services
Steve Nyakatawa, AD Education & Skills
Helen Johns, Head of SEND & Inclusion
Jenny Boyd, AD Children's Social Care and Early Help
Claire Hayes, Head of Early Help
Vince Clarke, Children First Transformation Director
Louise Warren, Senior Improvement Lead
Kathryn Kellagher, SEND Development Officer
Yasmin Maskatiya, Head of Standards & Effectiveness
Grace Fairbourn, Early Years SEND Lead
Fiona Mackison, Public Health Strategic Commissioning Lead
Sarah Clark, Head of Virtual School

Education and schools

Mark Wignall, Head, Downlands Secondary
Doug Thomas, Head APC
Simon Brown, Head of SEND, Chichester College
Claire Kenyon, Busy Lizzies, Early Years
Gillian Santi, Governors Association

Parent Carers

Rowan Westwood, West Sussex Parent Carers Forum
John Clifton, West Sussex Parent Carer Forum

Health

Caroline Tozzi, Integrated Care System Health Lead

Councillor Representative

Jacquie Russell, Cabinet member

Apologies

WSSCC

Loretta Rogers, AD Adult Operations
Louise Fox, Head of Service Assessment and Family Safeguarding

Education and schools

Louise-Isa Gada, Littlegreen Special school
Helen Ball, St Anthony's Special School
Representative of primary schools

Health and Commissioning

Rachael Lee, Designated Clinical Officer
Kate Courtney, Designated Clinical Officer, maternity cover
Jacqui Parfitt, Service Manager and Development Lead, Joint
Commissioning Unit

1. Welcome and action log

Actions covered in the agenda.

2. Ofsted & CQC SEND Local Area Inspection

Ofsted called this morning and West Sussex is now undergoing its Local Area SEND Inspection.

Annex A information is being uploaded to Ofsted today and we will hear by the end of the week the names of the six cases they will be tracking.

Surveys will be live until 21 November and are being shared widely.

Ofsted will give us feedback on 1 December and it was decided that we should cancel the 4 December board meeting, as we will not have time to prepare papers.

The SEF was signed off at the October board meeting and has been submitted to Ofsted.

3. Data dashboard, including attainment data

Attainment data shows that West Sussex data is broadly aligned with national outcomes for pupils with SEND.

It would be useful to analyse the data more closely, looking at:

- Types of school
- Areas of need
- EHCPs and SEN Support separated out
- Outcome data for post-16
- Tribunal data

Actions

3.1 Upload presentation to Ofsted

3.2 SB to send through outcomes data for all CYP with SEND who attend Chichester College Groups.

3.3 Produce a report for Ofsted pulling together recent school Ofsted reports, with a focus on SEND and parent feedback.

3.4 Further breakdown and analysis of data working with Marie Foley

4. Improvement Plan

See attached presentation **SEND-ImpPlan-PWG** and **Appendices A, B and C**.

There will be six working groups, which will take us through to 2025/2026. These will report to the Area SEND Partnership Improvement group, which will in turn report to the SEND-AP Board.

- 1 Mainstream and universal provision is inclusive so that children and young people receive the right support at the right time.
- 2 Children and young people who require statutory or specialist support receive timely, effective and consistent support.
- 3 Leaders have an accurate, shared understanding of the needs of children and young people and make the necessary improvements.
- 4 Strengthen the experiences and outcomes of children and young people receiving alternative provision.
- 5 Children and young people with SEND receive timely and helpful support to prepare for adulthood from the earliest opportunity.
- 6 Children, young people and parent carers are well-informed and participate in decision-making about strategic developments, as well as in their own individual plans of support.

We are also developing an Outcomes Framework and have a workshop planned for 21 November. This may be re-scheduled due to the Ofsted Inspection.

We have refreshed the EHCP audit process and have scheduled monthly moderated audits of 10 plans up to the end of the academic year.

5. EHCP Recovery Plan

See presentation **Timeliness Recovery 12 month**

The rate at which we reduce the backlog of EHCNAs will be accelerated through increasing EPS and SENAT capacity.

Issues raised:

- Challenge of staff retention in SENAT: working in SENAT is stressful and their roles are complex.
- Concern from schools that the drive to reduce costs results in more children and young people with EHCPs being placed in mainstream.
- Focus on prevention work at an early stage to prevent escalation.
- Focus on early years and supporting children to thrive pre-school.
- Sufficiency planning – more special school places planned.
- Some EHCPs are short-term interventions designed to develop the resilience of CYP. Particularly relevant for those EHCPs which are SEMH.
- WSPCF has on-going concerns over methods being used to reduce the backlog.

Actions

- 5.1 WSPCF to be involved in SENAT Induction Training. To be picked up in the Improvement Plan. HJ to speak to Karen Spencer.
- 5.2 LW ad Karen Spencer are working with Roger Burke to help address operational issues and Nicholas Rozee from organisational Development to help with staff orale in SENAT

6. WSPCF

See attached presentation Parent Carer Views on EHCNAs and EHCPs

The board was concerned at the levels of parental anxiety and feelings of helplessness reported in the survey.

- Some parents reported a lack of support from schools. It would be helpful to know which schools are struggling so we can help them meet the needs of children and young people at their setting.
- The importance of communication with families was highlighted and is an area of focus for SENAT. Improvements will take time to trickle down but should improve the lived experience for families.

The EHCP Recovery plan to clear the backlog of EHCNAs should help reduce parental anxiety in time

Actions

- 6.1 LB to follow up with JC and RW
- 6.2 Set up face to face meetings with parents in the spring term, to reassure them that we hear their concerns and communicate our plans to address them