

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy & Partnership Board
21 October 2025, 13.30 – 15.30, Parham Room, County Hall North, Horsham



<p>Chair Brian Pope, Independent Chair</p> <p>WSCC Andrew Parker, Interim Head SEND & Inclusion Anna Parsons, Early Years SEND Lead (maternity cover) Claire Hayes, AD Education & Skills Karen Furse, Head of Standards & Effectiveness Kathryn Kellagher, SEND Development Officer Lauren Boal, Voice and Participation Michael Rhodes-Kubiak, Short Breaks, Commissioning Nadia McGarry, SEND Improvement Lead Natalie McNeill, Designated Social Care Officer Graeme Potter, Public Health Consultant Vicky Richardson, Head of Practice, Improvement & Inspection</p> <p>Education and schools Adam Rowlands, Head Woodlands Meed Liz Mellor, Head, Horsham Nursery Phillip Potter, Head Oak Grove College Simon Brown, Chichester College Zoe Gordon, Head North Mundham</p> <p>NHS Sussex ICB Caroline Tozzi, Joint Director Children & Young People, Strategic Lead for SEND</p> <p>Parent Carers Clare Eeles, West Sussex Parent Carer Forum</p> <p>Department for Education Liz Flaherty Lizzie Roff</p> <p>Councillor Representative Jacquie Russell, Cabinet member</p> <p>Brighton & Hove, observer Amanda Meier</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>WSCC Daniel Ruaux, Director of Children’s Services Heidi Farr, Head of Assessment & Family Safeguarding Central Kieron Lyons, AD Children’s Social Care and Early Help Loretta Rogers, AD Adult Operations Rebecca Turner, Head of Commissioning</p> <p>Education and schools Doug Thomas, Head APC Nicky Hiscock, Governor Parklands Primary</p> <p>Parent Carers John Clifton, West Sussex Parent Carer Forum Rowan Westwood, West Sussex Parent Carer Forum</p> <p>NHS Sussex ICB Toby Silverman, SEND Improvement Manager</p> <p>NHS England SE SEND Advisor Adeline Gibbs</p>
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1. Welcome

2. Action Log

See action log.

3. Dry Run Inspection: Thematic reviews of children not in school in local areas

See presentation.

- The aim was to complete this in line with inspection time-frames; however this proved challenging and the time period for reviews was extended. Health colleagues were unable to complete audits because information sharing agreements between the ICB and providers were not yet in place.
- Auditors were asked to rag rate and then the panel identified a final grading.
- The actions from the review are being fed into the Continuing Practice and Improvement Plan (CPIP) in order to track progress.
- VR's team has carried out a number of dry run inspections in social care; this was the first one done in this forum and there was great engagement.

Discussion:

- It was noted that not all children with an EHCP have a learning disability, and that only those with a learning disability are entitled to an age 14 health check. The action around this is to be more proactive in promoting these checks.
- All 4 of the children/young people with an EHCP had had an annual review.
- VR was thanked for a thoughtful and useful piece of work.

Rag rating of Strategic Improvement Plan: this is scheduled for 6 November. Phillip Potter, Liz Mellor and Liz Flaherty offered to join the group. Caroline to discuss with Vicky how best to secure meaningful health involvement.

Actions

3.1 CT and VR to discuss how best to secure meaningful health involvement in the rag rating of the Strategic Improvement Plan.

4. SEND Strategy

- This is now at Version 18 and is going through the final elements of consultation.
- There are two stakeholder events, on 3 and 4 November, where partners will have the opportunity to suggest final tweaks.

Discussion:

- Given where the document was a few months ago, it is now looking and reading well.
- Concerns were raised over how we will measure its impact – there are no dates on actions.
 - The actions are aligned with the SEND CPIP and this is referenced in the foreword.
- Public health has a statutory duty to wellbeing to secure access to leisure activities for children and young people and there is a project around this that should be aligned with the SEND Strategy. They will send representatives to the stakeholder meetings.
- The SEND Outcomes Framework will be published before the strategy and will underpin it. It will be measured via a mixture of qualitative data through the WSPCF annual survey and quantitative data which is already collected through statutory services.

- Priority 3 references a greater choice of supported living opportunities, and it was queried if this is in the remit of this strategy.
 - The preparation for adulthood section does need developing and this will be a focus in the engagement session.

5. Focus: Preparation for Adulthood

See feedback from young people, presentation on Supported Internships and the overview presentation on preparation for adulthood.

Feedback from young people

Discussion

- The presentation contained a mixture of experience and it was hard to know if the reflections were contemporary or about now. The young people who gave feedback were either members of Young Voices or mixed age school groups.
- It was clear that CYP wanted work opportunities beyond farms, cafes or charity shops, and that they also wanted to secure paid opportunities.

Supported Internships

Discussion

- The ambition is to start with 10 internships in mid-Sussex, then roll out a further 10 in the rest of West Sussex the following year.
- There's a challenge with Adam registering post-19 students. Discussions are ongoing with DfE to address this.
- SENAT has a list of young people who would be interested in supported internships and discussions are on-going around how to register them.
- There is also the issue that 19-25 year olds with EHCPs tend to PMLD, and would not therefore benefit from supported internships.
- If an EHCP is formally ceased, then the young person would have to reapply to access support if a placement or internship falls through.
- If a young person is accepted on a supported internship, they will benefit from a guaranteed work coach. There is no obligation on the employer to take them on after the internship has ended.
- Michael Rhodes-Kubiak can link Adam to libraries and short break providers.
- WSCC and the NHS should also offer their own small number of supported internships to model to other potential employers.

Preparation for Adulthood

There are now monthly meetings to focus on Area 5 of the CPIP to improve progress.

ACTIONS

5.1 Once the poster is finalised, Adam will share it with us for onward promotion.

5.2 Liz will take back the registration challenge to the DfE.

5.3 Andy will clarify the data/KPIs and work with SENAT around how to better record employment outcomes for young people with EHCPs.

6. Focus: Health

Discussion

- It is good to see some green in the SEND data, for example around SALT average waiting time and the high uptake of annual health checks.
- They need more capacity in order to analyse the SEND data and produce action plans.
- Brian has met with the independent chair of the Surrey SEND-AP Board and while many issues are similar to West Sussex, they have been able to move

quickly on timeliness of EHCPs, from under 10% to 90%. All partners contribute to this and it would be interesting to see what lessons we can learn.

- Isabel Hodgson from Surrey will work with Caroline in the ICB merger.
- The preparation for the merger is taking up a lot of time and they are also losing staff through the Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme (MARS), which is adding to the pressure.
- Karen and Caroline to link up around COAST (the Crisis Outreach Acute Support Team).
- SEND paper highlighting clinical and commissioning risks is to be presented to the ICB Commissioning Group in November.
 - Special School nursing: Caroline will see if she can share a directory of generic contact details for each provider to help direct special schools to special school nursing support.
 - The risk paper will highlight the effect of all the changes on families.
 - SEND remains one of 4 priority areas in Pan Sussex Board.
- There will be a scrutiny paper in November which will focus on waiting lists for CAMHS and Neurodevelopmental Services. To be shared with board members.

Actions

6.1 Caroline to see if she can share the directory of generic contact details for each provider with special schools.

6.2 Caroline to share the November scrutiny paper covering waiting lists for CAMHS and Neurodevelopmental Services.