

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy & Partnership Board

23 September, 10.00 – 12.00

Committee Room 3, County Hall Chichester

Brian Pope, Independent Chair
Natalie Smith, Observer from Hampshire LA

WSCC

Vince Clarke, Director of Children's Services
Claire Hayes, AD Education & Skills
Claire Prince, Head of SEND & Inclusion
Nadia McGarry, SEND Improvement Lead
Kathryn Kellagher, SEND Development Officer
Karen Furse, Head of Standards & Effectiveness
Louise Fox, Head of Service Assessment and Family Safeguarding
Grace Hall, Early Years SEND Lead
Charlene Hornsey, Head of Early Help
Stephen Humphrey, Head of Commissioning
Graham Olway, Head of Organisation and Planning

Education and schools

Phillip Potter, Head Oak Grove College
Mark Wignall, Head, Downlands Secondary
Claire Kenyon, Busy Lizzies, Early Years
Doug Thomas, Head APC
Simon Brown, Head of SEND, Chichester College
Nicky Smith, Governors Association

Health and Commissioning

Caroline Tozzi, Integrated Care System Health Lead

Parent Carers

Rowan Westwood, West Sussex Parent Carers Forum

Councillor Representative

Jacque Russell, Cabinet member

Department for Education

Liz Flaherty

CQC????

Adeline Gibbs

Apologies

WSCC

Sarah Clark, Head of Virtual School
Marie Foley, Head of Data, Projects and Systems
Kieron Lyons, AD Children's Social Care and Early Help
Loretta Rogers, AD Adult Operations
Fiona Mackison, Public Health Strategic Commissioning Lead
Vicky Richardson, Head of Practice, Improvement & Inspection
Daniel Ruaux, AD Corporate Parenting
Andy Thorne, Delegate for LA Finance Director
Toby Wilson, Young Voices

Parent Carers

John Clifton, West Sussex Parent Carers Forum

1. Action Log

- Items from 25 June, 3.2,3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 **all resolved**.
- Item 3.7 from 25 June – updated version of the metrics to be circulated **c/f**
- Item 7.1 from 16 July: Include narrative around ½.1, which is only about autism and doesn't reflect all pathways and NDP referrals. **c/f**

2. Upcoming meetings

- 22 October DfE 6 month Strategic Plan review meeting: this is our opportunity to show progress made and the impact it is having. Four head teachers and representatives from the WSPCF will also attend to input on progress. We will bring feedback to the November board meeting.
- There was a challenge about whether we have robust governance around the improvement plan and it was agreed that we have:
 - Area 1 around health "waiting well" arrangements and gaps in service provision – we have quarterly a quarterly focus on this.
 - Area 2 around aspiration and access to video fluoroscopy has been dealt with.
 - Area 3 around timeliness of EHC plans is analysed every month.
 - Area 4 around SEND Sufficiency is being discussed today and is discussed on a quarterly basis. We also have regular updates on alternative provision.
 - Area 5 around preparation for adulthood was last discussed in July.
- Our partner working groups were set up as part of the SEND strategy which picks up the Ofsted areas for improvement.
- Scrutiny Committee meetings: there was a scrutiny on the Education Psychology Service (EPS) on 11 September and there will be a scrutiny on the SEND Sufficiency plan in November.

3. Update from West Sussex Parent Carer Forum

RW asked for greater focus within our detailed, data-heavy documents on the child or young person and the impact of our plans on them. This was particularly aimed at the Local Authority Inclusion Plan (LAIP) and the Self Evaluation Framework (SEF).

- The documents are complex because the issues we are dealing with are complex. The child is absolutely at the centre of everything we do but to improve their lived experience, it is incumbent on us to produce a strategic set of answers which are backed up by our data. If we don't address the issues strategically, we will be in the same situation for years to come.
- Data leads board members to think about the children: an example given was that 200 exclusions means 200 children not in school and makes us focus on strategies to improve outcomes for those children.
- Within SENAT, there is a move to use less impersonal language, such as children/young people rather than cases. The reconfiguration has reduced workloads for staff and has created teams with a specific focus, which will give staff more time to talk to families. We're capturing family voice within our EHCP audit process. The EPS has changed the way they carry out assessments to be more family and child focused. This has led to improvement in the quality of EHCPs because they are more accurately capturing the family voice. While we still get a number of complaints, we are now getting more compliments about how parents felt held by the SEND Officer through the difficult process of getting an EHCP. These are all examples of how we are putting children and families at the heart of our processes.
- We are developing an Outcomes Framework with the WSPCF and this will help us capture impact on children.

- It was agreed that we should include a preface to both the LAIP and the SEF around the impact of our plans on children, young people and their families, to include quotes from better reflect .

ACTIONS:

3.1 NM to amend introduction to LAIP and VR to amend introduction to SEF to focus on the impact of our plans on children, young people and their families.

4. Launch of the SEND & Inclusion Strategy Review

- This is a refresh rather than a full rewrite.
- We have arranged four stakeholder workshops and have had an encouraging uptake so far. Board members are encouraged to share the comms, which is going out to schools this week and which is attached to the notes.
- We will reserve spaces for young people at the workshops for those who would like to attend, and will also organise a separate workshop.

ACTIONS:

4.1 All to encourage attendance at the SEND & Inclusion Strategy review workshops.

5. Local Authority Inclusion Plan (LAIP)

See attached draft document.

The LAIP has been written as part of CPP programme and follows a national template to analyse our data. We currently have a heavy weighting towards sorting out the EHCP issues but this analysis will help to inform our strategic longer term priorities.

It has highlighted some concerns, such as the 38% increase in exclusions and the higher than national numbers of children and young people on SEN support. It was agreed that future board agenda items should be:

- A focus on SEN support; what strategies primary and secondary schools have developed to improve ordinarily available inclusive provision. MW offered to ask his SENCO to present about how they do inclusion in a secondary school.
- A focus on exclusions. This is being looked at via a Courageous Conversation as part of our regional work with SE19 Local Authorities. CP to bring actions from this back to the board.
- A focus on NEETs.

Gaps identified:

- KS2 outcomes to be included (can be lifted from the SEF).
- In Annex B, WSPCF is not mentioned as partner on co-production.

Other discussion points:

- We need to be mindful that children who are excluded from primary schools are likely being exploited and while they may not have an EHCP, they may have trauma or ADHD. A very small number of children come into care but the outcomes for these children is really poor.
- Alongside the need for significant culture change to address exclusion, there needs to be access to therapies and appropriate provision.

ACTIONS:

5.1 Add to Forward Plan the future board agenda items on SEN Support, exclusions and NEETS.

5.2 Include KS2 outcomes in LAIP

5.3 List WSPCF as co-production partner in Annex B

5.4 Bring LAIP to the October board meeting for signing off.

6. Outcomes Framework

We have already had a couple of multi-disciplinary workshops around an outcomes framework which identified areas to focus on.

The next stage is a series of workshops with the parent carer forum over next few weeks. We have some broad areas we want to focus on and need to work with parents to understand what that would mean for their child, in order to define the indicators.

- Unfortunately, September is a difficult month for parent carers because it is a time of transition for their child. This has meant that the uptake for the workshops has been disappointing. It was agreed that it would be better to do this properly rather than rush it through and that RW would discuss with CP outside the meeting.
- There has been some debate over the I Thrive outcome. Consultation with the initial group of parents was very positive on the wording but there might be some confusion with the I Thrive programme. It was agreed that we should come up with some other options.
- We will organise a separate workshop for children and young people, though those that wish to may also attend the parent carer workshops.

ACTIONS:

6.1 CP and RW to discuss uptake of Outcomes Framework workshops.

7. EHCP Response Plan

See attached presentation.

- While we can see an increase in volume of EPS assessments, we seem stuck on the 20% figure for percentage of assessments completed within 12 weeks. AM to be invited to next board meeting to provide background narrative.
- SENAT is now up to capacity but the reconfiguration and new staff members will take time to settle in. Training was provided over the summer and we should see some movement in data towards the end of this term.
- It's important to note that while we have got additional SENAT staff as per our business plan, this was written a year ago and demand has increased by around 1,000 in that time. So we are still presented with a significant challenge.

ACTIONS:

7.1 AM to be invited to next board meeting.

8. SEF Update

See attached document.

This update captures the improvement work that has taken place since the Ofsted Inspection. We have kept the same format as it was viewed positively at our Ofsted Inspection.

It was agreed that it accurately captures the issues discussed at the SEND-AP Board. It shows that we know our service and are basing our planning on a solid evidence-based approach.

The DBV and CPP pilots and initiatives are all designed to support areas of improvement identified in the SEF.

Next steps:

- Create a summary presentation document that can be shared with families.
- The next update should have more of an impact focus. The introduction of the Outcomes Framework will support this.

ACTIONS:

8.1 Create a summary presentation for the next update.

8.2 Ensure that the next update has a focus on impact.

9. SEND Sufficiency Strategy

See attached presentation.

Discussion:

- Mixed Model of SEND provision triangle: the West Sussex version of this triangle was requested and is attached to the notes.
- Data request for next board meeting: can we see by localities, by phase and by need, how many places we need over the next five years. How many special school places are needed by locality, how many have we got, what is the shortfall and what plans do we have to address the shortfall. This will also be required for the DfE meeting on 22 October and the scrutiny committee in November.
- We need to provide regular updates to schools and the wider community on the progress of SEN Strategic projects.
- INMSS provisions have their own plans and it would be useful to have sight of these for background research. GO to discuss with CP.
- Important to involve Steve Humphries in the conversation.

ACTIONS:

9.1 Data request for October board meeting: can we see by localities, by phase and by need, how many places we need over the next five years. How many places we have got, what is the shortfall and what plans do we have to address the shortfall.

9.2 Consider if we could have sight of INMSS plans.