

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
FROM:	Linda Clegg, Director of Children's Services
DATE:	20 th June 2017

SUBJECT: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection Readiness Update

1. PURPOSE

To update Health & Wellbeing Board Members on the progress made towards inspection readiness ahead of the local area inspections related to children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

To note the progress made by the local authority and partners to improve inspection readiness

3. BACKGROUND

In March 2016, a report was shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board to inform of proposed local area inspections related to children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Since then, 25 local area inspection reports have been published and the Blackburn with Darwen local area inspection is awaited.

Ofsted and CQC jointly inspect to see how well local areas fulfil their responsibilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The SEND inspection framework is an inspection of a local area. The local area for Blackburn with Darwen is defined as Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). As part of the inspection, inspectors visit a range of education, health and social care settings, meet with professionals across a wide range of services and with children, young people and their parents/carers.

4. RATIONALE

The SEND Governance group has reviewed the local area's governance and management structures that were created to oversee implementation of the SEND reforms. As a result of this review, and in preparation for the SEND local area inspection, a new governance structure has been implemented to better support inspection readiness and continued effective implementation of the SEND reforms.

The 0-25 SEND Board has therefore been dis-established and replaced by a more strategically focused group that will concentrate on inspection readiness. This group will be accountable directly to the Children's Partnership Board and will act as the escalation route for all SEND working

groups.

5. KEY ISSUES

The SEND Inspection Readiness Group has agreed a number of areas that are critical in order to improve inspection readiness:

0-25 Complex Needs Strategy to be reviewed and transformed into a 'SEND Strategy'

The 0-25 Complex Needs Strategy is the most relevant strategy and this will be revisited. Aspects of the strategy, including the vision, is valid in a new SEND Strategy, however the detail will be refreshed and updated. The strategy will be communicated to inform and influence provision and work with families.

Joint Commissioning

Work is underway to identify in greater detail the actions that are required to improve joint commissioning and this will be fed into the SEND Inspection Readiness Action Plan.

A Joint Commissioning Strategy has been drafted, and clarity on what we mean by joint commissioning will be explored. To develop the Joint Commissioning Strategy further, areas for development are; which areas to focus on, what do we currently have in place and what have we already achieved?

More data analysis is required across the partnership including understanding health data on service delivery and what do we already know about the identification of SEND and local need.

A clear framework is required to monitor providers against our expectations which we will use to monitor contractual compliance and performance against clear expectations with providers.

Pathways to adulthood

Analysis has been undertaken on all Blackburn with Darwen Ofsted reports for primary and secondary schools in relation to SEND and this will be expanded to include early years, further education and health settings. It is important that we understand the view that Ofsted inspections may have already formed based on inspections in the local area and the reports reviewed so far present a positive picture.

Provision in relation to SEND as set out in Ofsted and CQC reports will be reviewed by the Inspection Readiness group on an ongoing basis.

Further data analysis will be carried out on the proportion of children that transition from children to adults with a plan, education and training destinations data including young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and the quality of local provision across the full age range.

Designated Medical Officer (DMO)

The DMO role acts as the SEND champion from a health perspective, works as a strategic partner with the local authority and ensures that the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pathway is effective. The DMO oversees that quality assurance checks are in place within health, identifies gaps in provision and ensures that there are effective links with commissioning.

A DMO for Pennine Lancashire is expected to be appointed in September 2017 and this will consist of three posts linked to the geographical areas (Pennine, Central and North). Each post will have a different skills mix; one consultant/GP lead, one allied health professional and one nurse lead.

The role of the DMO will improve our partnership working and allow for a clear escalation procedure within the Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) when addressing funding issues on an individual case basis.

What is the quality and impact of our SEND provision?

Ofsted will form a view of the quality and impact of our provision based on case tracking and interviews with settings, providers, parents/carers and children and young people themselves. In preparation, an audit programme that focuses on our review processes and outcomes achieved will be developed to provide evidence to be shared with inspectors.

Phase 1 will look at a 10% sample of our EHCPs and assess whether progress is being made against needs identified within the plan. This will be commissioned as an initial piece of work with a clear focus on whether the provision is making a difference.

Phase 2 is to establish an ongoing programme of audits lead by Schools & Education managers, one of whom to be part of Phase 1 working with the commissioned reviewer.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Under the Children and Families Act 2014, the government placed new duties on the local health, social and education services that provide for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice was updated to reflect these new duties.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Local authority SEND Reform Grant will fund the Phase 1 commissioned audit. No additional funding is requested or required to address the ambitions set out in this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Health, education and social service bodies have a legal duty to comply with the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resources will be met through existing resources across Education, Social Care and Health.

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Work on Inspection Readiness will have a positive impact on children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities as the responsibilities of the local area will be further developed and embedded.

11. CONSULTATIONS

The Children's Partnership Board and the SEND Inspection Readiness group have received this update on Inspection Readiness.

Parents and carers have been briefed on the revised SEND strategy and the inspection process including how they can get involved in the inspection.

VERSION:	V0.1
-----------------	-------------

CONTACT OFFICER:	Sue Hayward, Service Lead – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Children's Services, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
DATE:	19 th May 2017
BACKGROUND PAPER:	None

