

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



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| TO: | Health and Wellbeing Board |
| FROM: | Jayne Ivory – Director of Children’s Services |
| DATE: | 5 th March 2019 |

SUBJECT: SEND Stocktake event feedback

1. PURPOSE

To provide an update on the findings of the SEND Stocktake event which took place in November 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

It is recommended that the content of this report and identified key actions are noted and endorsed.

3. BACKGROUND

The purpose of the stocktake event was to bring together key leaders and decision makers as a strategic partnership to reflect on the effectiveness of the local area SEND offer, including the implementation of the SEND Strategy and governance arrangements across the network. It was also designed to strengthen readiness for the future Local Area SEND Ofsted Inspection and enable agreed priorities and next steps.

4. RATIONALE

Thirty-five partner colleagues from the range of health services, the CCG, schools, Children’s Services, Adult Services and parent/carer representatives attended the event in November. The event was co-hosted by the Director of Children’s services and Iain Fletcher, Head of Corporate Business at NHS Blackburn with Darwen CCG.

A revolving workshop approach was used to allow all attendees to contribute their views and opinions on three key themes:

1. The SEND Strategy Implementation Action Plan
2. Data collection and analysis
3. Partnership Governance arrangements

5. KEY ISSUES

Ahead of moving into workshops participants were asked to consider to what degree they felt that the SEND strategy had been embedded within their organisation, service or setting. This discussion revealed that whilst information may have been shared with teams there was more work to be done to ensure that all leaders, managers and staff understood the strategy and embedding it into day to day delivery.

Theme 1: SEND Strategy Implementation Action Plan (see appendix A – SEND Implementation Action Plan on a Page)

Participants were asked to consider:

- *does the plan included the right key priority actions as identified in the SEND strategy?*
- *Is there anything else that should be in the plan?*
- *how does your service contribute to the action plan?*
- *ideas for practical solutions to help support progressing the plan.*

The consensus of feedback from all groups was that the right priorities had been identified, however two areas for improvement were identified:

- Improved communications and collaborative working across the partnership
- address gaps in data, understanding and dissemination across the partnership to better support strategic decision making

Theme 2: Data collection and analysis

Some of the data currently collected by the local area was shared at the session. Participants were then asked to consider:

- *Where are there gaps in our data?*
- *What other data is collected?*
- *Are we using data to identify needs and gaps accurately?*

The discussion in the workshop identified a number of improvements that should be made to how the partnership currently shares and uses data, these being:

- The partnership needs to develop a shared data set that collects the same kinds of information – currently data held by Children’s Services includes demographics of children and young people and types of need routinely compared with regional and national trends whilst health data is orientated on service demand.
- Data that is available to the partnership needs to be shared regularly with an analysis of what it means to support improved understanding
- Data needs to be used to inform strategic planning, decision making and joint commissioning particularly in relation to key transition points.

Theme 3: Partnership and Governance (see appendix B)

The current hierarchy structure was shared with participants; they were asked to consider the following points;

- *Is the governance structure right?*
- *Is the membership of these groups right?*
- *What other decision making groups are there?*
- *Can we determine the impact of our current arrangements?*
- *Does the current structure drive the SEND agenda forward at both an individual organisation level and as a partnership?*

Feedback from discussion was:

- Whilst the governance reporting hierarchy is clear on paper, it is not understood by all partner organisations. The levels of decision making felt complicated to many participants and they were unclear about who sat on each group and if all the right people were included in the membership of each group. A review of the terms of reference and membership of these groups would be a beneficial action to take forward to ensure sufficient representation at meetings and to clarify the purpose of each group. This information then should be shared across the partnership.
- Greater transparency perhaps in the form of published meeting papers, or post meeting briefing updates from each of the key meetings would communicate key decisions with SEND partners and share strategic thinking

Recommendations

- That the Strategy implementation action plan is updated to include new actions identified through the workshops. –
- That a review of the membership of each of the key decision making groups (Implementation Group, SEND Board and Joint Commissioning Group is reviewed to ensure the best possible representation and that there are clear communications from these meetings that are circulated.)
- To review the terms of reference of each meeting and share new refreshed documents with wider partners
- That a series of SEND strategy briefing sessions are planned to share the strategy, action plan and the governance structure.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The key actions identified will support the Local Area to continue to improve its compliance with key statutory requirements and legislation pertaining to the SEND agenda.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The key actions identified will support the Local area to continue to improve its compliance with key statutory requirements and legislation pertaining to the equality and inclusion agenda.

11. CONSULTATIONS

35 decision makers from across the local area partnership attended and contributed to the event.

VERSION: 2.0

CONTACT OFFICER: Joanne Stewart, Head of Service – Early Help & Support

DATE: 11th February 2019

BACKGROUND PAPER:



Appendix A_SEND
Implementation Plan



Appendix
B_Governance Structure

