



# Northumberland County Council

## **Families and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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### **SEND: Progress Update on the Written Statement of Action**

Report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, Cath McEvoy-Carr

Cabinet Member for Children's Services: Councillor Wayne Daley

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#### **Purpose of report**

This report is to update the committee on the progress that is being made on the Written Statement of Action received following Northumberland's SEND inspection in October 2018.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Elected Members:

- 1) Note the contents of the report
- 2) Recognise the ongoing developments and identify any potential issues for further consideration if appropriate

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the 'We want you to achieve and realise your potential (Learning)' and 'We want you to feel safe, healthy, and cared for (Living)' priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

#### **Key Issues**

- 1) Northumberland's Written Statement of Action was approved in March 2019 by Ofsted and CQC as being fit for purpose in addressing the areas highlighted as requiring improvement following the local area SEND inspection.

- 2) Northumberland's response to the outcomes of the SEND inspection is being monitored by quarterly visits from DfE and NHS England. There have been two monitoring visits where NCC and Northumberland CCG were able to provide positive assurance that the Written Statement of Action improvement plan was on course and delivering the necessary improvements.

## Background

Following the Local Area SEND inspection in October 2018, Northumberland County Council and Northumberland CCG were required to produce a Written Statement of Action that explains how the following areas of development will be addressed:

1. Weaknesses in the local area's arrangements for jointly planning, commissioning and providing the services children and young people with SEND and their families need.
2. The graduated response to identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND is not embedded in mainstream primary and secondary schools.
3. The poor outcomes achieved by children and young people with SEND and weaknesses in successfully preparing them for their adult lives.

The [Written Statement of Action](#) was [approved](#) in March 2019 and is being monitored by quarterly visits from DfE and NHS England. To date there have been two monitoring visits on 11th March 2019 and 10th June 2019.

Northumberland County Council and Northumberland CCG were able to provide positive assurance on progress being made to address the areas of weakness highlighted in the SEND inspection (see appendix 1.)

It was discussed with monitoring representatives from DfE and NHS England that the Written Statement of Action plan is an ambitious improvement plan and it will be a challenge to deliver all actions within the timescales set. They positively acknowledged the progress made to date and highlighted key areas for discussion of joint commissioning, outcomes framework and evidencing the impact of our improvements for children and young people at the next monitoring visit in November 2019.

Following the monitoring visit on the 10th June 2019, a letter has been received from Nadhim Zahawi MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families confirming progress being made (see appendix 2).

Northumberland will receive a re-visit from CQC and Ofsted approximately eighteen months from the date the Written Statement of Action was approved in March 2019.

## IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

<b>Policy:</b>	Developments detailed within the report outline steps being made towards strategic objectives.
<b>Finance and value for money:</b>	Efficient systems and processes within SEND underpin the transparent and equitable allocation of SEND finances.
<b>Legal:</b>	The SEND Code of Practice places a number of statutory requirements on Local Authorities and CCGs.
<b>Procurement:</b>	n/a
<b>Human Resources:</b>	n/a
<b>Property:</b>	Capacity planning for the provision of specialist educational placements may involve capital development.
<b>Equalities:</b> (Impact Assessment attached)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	SEND promotes the inclusion of children and young people within their schools and communities.
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	There is a risk that services will not be effective or efficient if the governance and strategy is not robustly monitored.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b>	Youth Offending and SEND populations overlap.
<b>Customer Considerations:</b>	The views of children, young people and their parents / carers are central to developments and improvements within SEND.
<b>Carbon Reduction:</b>	SEND school transport arrangements are linked.
<b>Wards:</b>	n/a

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

### [Outcome of Northumberland Local Area SEND inspection](#)

Appendix 1: Northumberland Local Area Preparation for WSoA Review Meeting, 10th June 2019.

Appendix 2: Letter from Nadhim Zahawi MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

### Report sign off

Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	

I.T.	
Executive Director of Children's Services	CMc-C
Portfolio Holder(s)	

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