



Northumberland

County Council

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3rd October 2019

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

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 Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee :

- 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.

FACS October 2019

- 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 the progress being made to address the areas of weakness highlighted in the SEND inspection.

It was discussed with monitoring representatives from both the 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 in the three areas of weakness. The following examples highlight some of the key developments undertaken

- Delivery of wide offer of training on SEND to schools eg to SENCOs, including a SENCO conference in June 2019 and training to Governors and school staff
- Development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, underpinned by enhanced data collection and the use of Tableau to support a better understanding of the needs of the SEND population
- Alignment of Education, Health and Care Plan processes with other pathways eg EHCP Annual Review and Looked After Children Reviews
- Refresh of the NCC guidance to schools re Supporting pupils with medical conditions in school policy
- SEND focussed visits from School Improvement Partners over the Summer Term 2019

Monitoring representatives from DfE and NHS England highlighted the key areas for discussion of joint commissioning, an outcomes framework and the evidencing of 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 the progress being made (see appendix 1).

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

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Appendix 1: Letter from Nadhim Zahawi MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

Report sign off.

	Full name of officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Service Director of Finance & Interim Section 151 Officer	Alison Elsdon
Relevant Executive Director	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wayne Daley

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