

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
11th April 2019

**Northumberland Local Area SEND Inspection: Written Statement of Action
Progress Report**

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services, Cath McEvoy-Carr

Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Wayne Daley

Purpose of Report

To update members regarding the progress of arrangements following the outcome of the Northumberland Local Area SEND Inspection.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board:

- 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

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

1. Northumberland local area (ie the County Council and the Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group) received notification of its Local Area SEND inspection on 24th September 2018. Inspection commenced on 1st October and was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted, with a team of inspectors including an Ofsted Inspector and a Children's Services Inspector from the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

2. As a result of the findings of the inspection, it was determined that the Local Area was required to produce a Written Statement of Action because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice. As is usual practice, the local authority and the clinical commissioning group were jointly responsible for submitting the written statement.
3. As a result, Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Northumberland CCG are required to produce a Written Statement of Action that explains how the following areas of development will be addressed:
 - 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
 - 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
 - the poor outcomes achieved by children and young people with SEND and weaknesses in successfully preparing them for their adult lives.

Progress

4. Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Northumberland CCG submitted a Written Statement of Action to Ofsted on the 12th March 2019 detailing actions that will be taken to address the above areas of weakness. This will be initially reviewed and approved by the inspection team. At the time of writing this report (21st March 2019) a response has yet to be received from Ofsted confirming whether the Written Statement of Action will be approved or whether additional amendments are required. Once approved, NCC and Northumberland CCG are required to place the action plan on Northumberland's Local Offer web page to be available to children, young people and their families and professionals working in education, health and social care.
5. Areas that are required to produce Written Statements of Action receive monitoring visits from DfE and NHS England on a quarterly basis. The first monitoring visit was held on the 11th March 2019 where NCC and Northumberland CCG were able to provide positive assurance that progress was being made against the three areas for development.
6. Northumberland Local Area will receive a revisit from the inspection team approximately eighteen months after the approval of the Written Statement of Action.

BACKGROUND

1. The national Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms, detailed in the SEND Code of Practice 2015, place a duty on Local Authorities to lead on integration arrangements between health services, social care provision and education for children and young people with SEND. The

duties (which came into force in September 2014) are in the Children and Families Act 2014 and are amplified in the statutory guidance 'Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years' (the Code of Practice) published jointly by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department of Health (DoH).

2. The Code of Practice requires partners from education, health and social care to work together to
 - identify the needs of children and young people with SEND,
 - put provision in place to meet their needs and
 - improve outcomes relating to employment, independent living, health and community inclusion.
3. In May 2016, CQC (Care Quality Commission) and Ofsted started an inspection programme to examine local area arrangements made for children and young people with SEND across education, health and social care.
4. The specific focus of the inspection is to review the progress made on implementing the reforms since September 2014, to review the leadership, governance and joint commissioning for SEND arrangements across E, H & C 0-25 and the effectiveness of the Local Area at identifying, assessing and meeting needs and improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25.
5. The outcome of a Local Area SEND inspection is not graded and is received in the form of a letter. This letter either states the local areas strengths and areas for development or it states that a Written Statement of Action is required because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice. If a Written Statement of Action is required the letter states who is responsible for delivering the actions, either the Local Authority, the CCG or both with joint responsibility. It also lists the number of areas that are required to be addressed (nationally so far these range from one to twelve).
6. Northumberland Local Area was inspected between the 1st and 5th October 2018. The outcome was published nationally on the 7th December 2018.
7. In November 2018, the DfE announced arrangements to revisit areas that had received a Written Statement of Action after a period of eighteen months to ensure appropriate progress is being made.

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.
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 checked="" 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

CONSULTATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Joint local area SEND inspection in Northumberland report, available at <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/SEND/10054777-Northumberland-County-Council-80532-PDF-Final.pdf>

Report Sign Off

Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Executive Director	CMC
Portfolio Holder(s)	WD

Report Author:

Sam Barron, Head of SEND Strategy (NCC) & Designated Clinical Officer (CCG)

(01670) 622742 samantha.barron*[@Northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.barron@Northumberland.gov.uk)