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| **Newcastle Local Area SEND Executive Board Briefing: 15/03/2021** |

**Return to School:** The Board was pleased to note that following the reopening of schools the attendance of children with EHCP’s was 77.4% on 9th March, which is about the national average of 77.3% (NB recent data shows that attendance for children with EHCPs is much higher than the national average).

**Raising attainment for early years:** This work had been commissioned by the SEND Board because young children with SEND in Newcastle achieve relatively poor outcomes compared to the national average. The Board discussed how important it is that development expectations for children at each age stage are well understood by families and settings. The next stage is to encourage good transition from nursery to schools and to raise awareness about what is expected for a child’s development at each age stage. Families will be invited to discuss their experiences and this information will be built into training programmes and tools to assess developmental progress.

**Voice update**: After a joint bidding process with parent/carer representatives we have been awarded £7,000 from the NHSE to test out more ‘creative’ ways of how we get the ‘voice’ of Children and Young People in their EHC plan.

**Occupational Therapy Review**: The review is at the exploratory stage with parents and carers. It will tackle issues such as waiting lists and referral pathways, and specialist equipment

**Newcastle Special Education Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS): Joint Commissioning Agreement:** The Board noted that the CCG has committed finance to the implementation of the new service structure including a

children and young people worker.

**Feedback from Inclusion Sub-Group: Implementation of SEMH review:** The Board were informed that bespoke training bespoke training packages are being explored with the intention of rolling out across the city to those who work with children and young people with SEMH.

**And** ……. Mark Patton, on behalf of the SEND Board wished **Chris Piercy** a fond farewell and all the very best for his future retirement. His good humour and extensive NHS senior leadership experience will be greatly missed by all. The Board expressed thanks to Chris for his work in moving the SEND agenda forward in Newcastle and encouraging effective partnership working. Chris provided reassurance to the Board that Jackie has been working alongside him for some time and will be holding responsibility for SEND for the CCG.

**Date of next SEND Executive Board meeting**: 17 May 2021