

## Newcastle Local Area SEND Executive Board | August 2019

**Consultation Outcome SEND Provision & Future Priorities:** partners have reviewed data detailing current primary needs across the city. The consensus is that the Local Area should prioritise sufficiency of places in secondary schools for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 2019/20 and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs in 2020/21. The Board is now working on a delivery plan.

**Speech & Language Therapy (SALT) joint commissioning update:** The Board recognises that access to SALT services is a key issue for families. Officers have been reviewing provision in the city for some time. A new pathway and service arrangements will start in 2021. However, it was reported that there is an immediate pressure on the service in the short term. The Board is urgently reviewing options to ensure continuity of services for children and families between now and 2021.

**Local Area SEND Scorecard:** The Board is keen to focus on the key services that our families depend upon and has asked for performance information to be included for SALT, Children & Young People's Service, physio and occupational therapy services.

**Governance arrangements for the SEND Executive Board:** The Board has invited post-16 providers to identify a representative to sit on the Board. Once agreed, there will be representation at the most senior level, including parents and carers across the Local Area – a great platform to deliver improvements to SEND services across the city.

**Written Statement of Action (WSOA) update:** our WSoA contains 115 actions. To date we are on-track or have completed about half of these actions. Progress has been much slower than anticipated in some areas. For example, we must ensure that children, parents & carers are at the heart of service development. We have advertised for a Community Engagement Worker who will lead our work in this important area.

**Quality Assurance Framework:** this sets out a comprehensive approach to improve the quality of our work, involving learning from auditing our Education, Health & Care Plans, listening to feedback about services, learning from complaints and gaining insights from data. The draft document is open for consultation until 23 September and can be found on the [Local Offer](#).

**'Graduated' response and single point of contact update:** this document clarifies the services available to support CYP with SEND in schools and how schools and families can request additional support. It outlines new services which can be accessed through our single point of contact (SPoC). The document can be seen on the [Local Offer](#).

## Newcastle Local Area SEND Executive Board | June 2019

### **SEND revisit: Demonstrating impact, impact and more impact**

At some time over the next year we will receive a re-visit from Ofsted and CQC inspectors. The inspectors will be totally focused on **IMPACT**, how we have improved the experiences for individual children, young people (CYP) and their families, that we understand what this means for different groups of CYP and can show we are adapting our services to improve. We will be holding workshops soon to find out what we need to do to capture the lived experience of CYP and their families and how to make this business as usual for all services.

### **Governance arrangements for the SEND Executive Board**

The Board are keen to ensure that all key stakeholders have a voice at the highest level in the governance of SEND services in the city. Invitations for additional representatives to join the Board have been sent to school representatives and the Parent / Carer Forum.

### **SEND Strategy and Overview plan**

We are examining our data to ensure we have an accurate picture of our CYP's current needs. We will make this data available to all stakeholders soon, so that together we can agree what our future provision should look like.

### **Local Offer Group**

The Board is keen to improve our local offer. The Local Offer group has been tasked with examining options to ensure our local offer meets the needs of CYP and families and that it meets the accessibility standards which are due to come in September 2020. Schools may also wish to review their websites to ensure that they comply with these standards. For further information please see: <https://gds.blog.gov.uk/2018/11/21/public-sector-website-accessibility-statements-what-you-need-to-know/>. We will soon be recruiting a SEND Participation Officer who will work with CYP and their families to ensure they are at the heart of service development. This officer will also be responsible for maintaining and developing the local offer. The cost of this new post has been shared equally between the council and the CCG.

### **Draft Local Area SEND Scorecard**

We are developing our SEND scorecard so that we can understand the difference SEND services are making to CYP and families in the city. This will enable us to strengthen our early warning systems to spot where things are not going as well as they should be and making sure we can quickly intervene. This scorecard will be published on the local offer once finalised and updated regularly.

## Newcastle Local Area SEND Executive Board | October 2019

### Written Statement of Action (WSOA) update:

The Board considered the city's progress against the WSoA, the plan showing the improvements we agreed to make following the SEND inspection last year (see [SEND Local Offer](#)). We have seven actions where we are not on track. Most of these relate to the participation of parents/carers and young people in decision making. We have now appointed a Community Engagement Worker. This will help us to make significant progress in this area over the next six months.

### Consultation - Draft Strategic Plan and Capital Plan:

The consultation was launched on 22 October and you can have your say at [Let's talk Newcastle](#) or via the [SEND Local Offer](#). Please note, consultation ends on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### SEND Complaints 2018/2019:

The Council received four complaints all of which were partially upheld. There were also five recommendations for improvement, which have been implemented. Learning from complaints is a key part of our quality assurance framework and we are now developing systems to give an overview of all complaints in the local area so the Board can spot and act on any system wide issues. This report coincided with a national report from the Ombudsman: [A system in crisis? Ombudsman complaints about SEN at alarming level](#). The strategic questions posed by the Ombudsman will be considered by the Board at the December meeting.

### Local Area SEND Scorecard Summary:

The Board reviewed performance for children with SEND across education and social care and will review health related information at the December meeting.

### ASD accelerator site initiative:

Following a successful pilot in the south of the region, the NHS has secured additional funding to roll out work to support children with autism in four of our secondary schools: Kenton, Sir Charles Parsons, Trinity and Benfield. The Board welcomed this and are keen to ensure that the learning is spread across all schools in the city. The Board has requested a progress report for the December meeting.

### Statutory assessment process - Health advice:

Our new Designated Medical Officer, Dr Mark Anderson, will be looking at further training to develop understanding of health professional's role in providing advice to contribute to the statutory assessment process.