

Newcastle Local Area SEND Executive Board Briefing 24 June 2020

Updated terms of reference were approved by the Board including new workstreams to take forward the priorities which are: SEND Intelligence and Commissioning; Voice; Preparing for Adulthood and Getting it right together: Quality Assurance. Once the parent /carer forum is re-established the Chair will be invited to join the SEND Executive Board. A new SEND specialist teacher and SEND health therapy managers forum has been set up to ensure close working between the council and health services.

A local area outcomes framework was approved by the Board. This has been developed to enable the SEND Board to monitor and challenge the achievement of outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Performance indicators are aligned to the five Children and Young People's Plan outcomes. The framework needs some further development and not everything is measurable at this stage, but it is a big step forward in ensuring that the Board have oversight of the key issues for the city and can amend commissioning plans accordingly. It has highlighted long waiting times for SEND children in some areas and the Board has added work to its commissioning plan to understand and address these issues.

The Board agreed a **Joint Commissioning Strategy** which sets our joint commissioning objectives and priorities as follows:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Commissioning agreements with Additionally Resourced Provisions
- SEN transport frameworks
- SEND information, assessment support service commissioning agreement
- Review of Educational Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Community Nursing Team
- Developing additional specialist capacity and the outreach support offer from specialist schools
- Developing ways of gathering more informative commissioning intelligence from EHCPs

The Council and CCG have agreed to jointly fund the Community Wellbeing Officer Post as a permanent post to lead our **Voice Workstream** and to also fund a young person to work alongside. We have sent out a survey to young people so they can give their views about how this role should work. The Board heard that we received an outstanding response to our survey asking parents/carers, children and young people on how they felt about returning to school. In response we have produced guidance documents which have been very well received by schools: **[Guidance and best practice | School Transition Documents](#)**.

The **[SEND Strategic Overview Plan](#)** was signed off by the Board setting out that the priorities for the next two years will be provision for Autism and SEMH. The Board also heard discussed some developments in these areas including:

- Proposed investment in additional specialist places for children with autism at Broadwood School. The proposal is currently out for consultation, but we anticipate that the places will be available from September 2020.
- The council is to become an Autism Education Trust license holder and will start to provide free training to schools in September.
- A full review of the journeys and experiences of children with SEMH has started and the findings will be used to commission what we do next.

The results of a recent **audit of health advices** provided for the EHC process was reported to the Board. The Board agreed a process and further training to help ensure that appropriate quality health advices are received to improve the quality of EHC Plans.

Date of next SEND Executive Board meeting: 21 September 2020