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| **Newcastle Local Area SEND Executive Board Briefing: 27/01/2021** |

**Getting it right together:**

We have reached an important milestone in our journey to ensure we fully embed co-production and

‘voice’, not only parents/carers but also with children and young people into all SEND services. Just before Christmas the council and CCG created two posts deliberately aimed at recruiting young people with lived experience of SEND. Young people with SEND were also involved in the recruitment process and we are pleased to report the two excellent candidates have been recruited to the roles. One of the young people was able to attend the meeting and told the Board about some of his experiences in Newcastle Schools. The Board have invited the officers to report back to the July Board about progress over the next 6 months and whether they feel things have improved for children and young people.

The **Parent/Carer forum** representatives reported back to the Board about what needs to be done to improve the EHC process. The priorities are:

* To improve communications and ensure a person-centred approach
* To standardise reporting, improve the quality of advices, ensure paperwork prompts children’s views
* To identify creative means to support families whilst on waiting lists and after diagnosis

These actions will be underpinned by training and support for the workforce and a plan and progress report will come back to the May meeting. You can have a look at the slides they presented here:



**January 2021 lockdown and school attendance:** The January lockdown resulted in anxiety for staff in Newcastle specialist schools and in response the LA and CCG have supported vaccinations for all staff in specialist schools and alternative provision. The Board representative of the specialist schools thanked Local Authority and CCG staff in implementing the vaccination programme, which has been greatly welcomed and appreciated by the specialist school staff. This is a great example of excellent partnership working in Newcastle. The Board noted that although school attendance of children with EHCPs is low in the current lockdown, at 38%, it is higher than the national average of 34%.

**Outcomes framework:** The Board agreed to publish the overview part of the outcome’s framework which you can find at [this link](https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/kb5/newcastle/fsd/advice.page?id=4KiY1Nh3AU8). The new Voice Officers were asked to check out how we propose to measure some areas such as: how safe, how happy and how well included children and young people feel.

**Autism referrals:** The Board heard that autism referrals for all age groups have increased but for young children aged under 5 years old, the increase has been from 36 in 2012 to 200, in 2019. A significant pressure which has contributed to long waiting times. The Board tasked the Designated Medical Officer and Head of SEND to identify the immediate steps that need to be taken to improve this service.

**New processes:** The Board agreed the implementation of the following new processes:

* to ensure that the Dynamic Support Register managed by the CCG and Council’s Complex Case register work effectively together
* A formal protocol to underpin health notifications for those age under 5 years

The impact of these new processes will be reported back to the September Board.

**SEMH:** The final SEMH report was agreed and a decision over the SEMH training across the city is to be agreed by the Inclusion sub-group.

**Date of next SEND Executive Board meeting**: 15 March 2021