

DECISION-MAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Board
SUBJECT:	Outcome of local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection
DATE OF DECISION:	4 September 2024
REPORT OF:	Councillor Alex Winning Cabinet Member for Children & Learning

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
N/a	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
This item outlines the outcome of the local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection, conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in April / May 2024.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	That the inspection feedback is noted – see Section 3.
(ii)	That the action plans in development are noted – see Section 4.
(iii)	That Health and Wellbeing Board partners as Strategic Leaders for the System commit to the actions and cultural change required to deliver the areas of improvement – see Section 5.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To ensure work so far is noted and actions for improvements agreed.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	N/a
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	On 26 th April 2024, Southampton Children and Learning Service and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board were notified that a local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection would be conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), with onsite activity taking place week commencing 6 th May 2024. More information on the

framework and handbook for SEND area inspections can be found online at www.gov.uk/publications or via link provided [here](#).

Judgement

1. The local area partnership's arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed. The next full areaSEND inspection will be within 5 years. Ofsted and the CQC ask the local area partnership to update and publish its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in this report.

2. The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements. The next full areaSEND inspection will take place within approximately 3 years. Ofsted and the CQC ask that the local area partnership updates and publishes its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in this report.

3. There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently. A monitoring inspection will be carried out within approximately 18 months. The next full areaSEND inspection will take place within approximately 3 years. HMCI requires the local area partnership to prepare and submit a priority action plan (area SEND) to address the identified areas for priority action.

The final report was published Tuesday July 16th and the judgement was a '2'.

Overall, we feel that the process was fair and balanced, and extremely robust. We are comfortable with the findings and believe that they are an accurate reflection of where we are as a city in relation to SEND provision.

4. **There were five report recommendations, three of which are particularly health relevant.**

Health commissioners and leaders need to further develop strategies to reduce waiting times for neurodiverse assessments and ensure children and young people receive ADHD medication when needed. There should be clear processes in place to monitor and report on progress made so that there is evidence of performance against the trajectory on improvements of waits from referral to treatment.

Nationally, regionally and locally Autism Spectrum Condition (Autism) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) diagnostic and prescribing services are facing significant capacity issues due to large waiting lists and a surge in demand resulting in long wait times for some patients. Much like other areas nationally, Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW) are struggling to keep up with demand. As of January 2022, there were just under 9,000 people waiting for an assessment across HIOW (across children and adults) with demand outstripping capacity by 84%. This increasing demand, coupled with historical difficulties in recruiting staff to the pathway (particularly prescribers), has resulted in a growing waiting list.

The focus of the action plan to address this area of improvement is therefore two-pronged. There is work underway across the HIOW ICB to review and redesign the ADHD/ASD assessment pathway, using the opportunity of the

coming together of the new HIOW Community NHS trust to identify opportunities to streamline. This also includes work to develop the workforce (particularly prescribing), including enhancement of shared care protocols for medication. However alongside this there is an imperative to promote a more needs led approach across the whole system and to develop more needs led support.

This workstream is therefore also focussed on rolling out the Neurodiversity Profiling Tool which has been successfully implemented in Portsmouth (with positive results including evidence that it is reducing demand for diagnosis) and reviewing and enhancing our parenting support offer with the addition of Teen-life (ASD programme) and further increasing New Forest Parenting Programme sessions (ADHD). The NDPT is currently being piloted in 3 primary schools (and 2 pre-schools) and the intention is to roll it out to all primary schools with a multidisciplinary support offer to families and settings by the end of March 25 alongside the continued roll out of the Autism in Schools programme to all schools.

Health leaders need to work at pace to improve the uptake of the antenatal contact, one-year and two-year healthy child programme mandated reviews.

Owing to the levels of need within the city, the capacity within public health nursing services and the strength of our multiagency early help and early years offer, health and care leaders in Southampton took the strategic decision to take a proportionate universal approach to our Public Health Nursing offer. Whilst all families are offered a 12 month and 2-2.5 year review, we specifically target our more vulnerable families with additional needs, including SEND. Take up of the offer of a health review universally is family led. Universally, Health Reviews are sent as invites via a 'choose and book' letter, with a follow up SMS- they are parent led contacts, so rely on families booking. This has meant that, whilst coverage for targeted cohorts of children is high (in excess of 96%), coverage universally is a lot lower (62-65% in 2023/24). This targeted approach to the health reviews has been underpinned by a strong early help offer of Family hubs and Early Years settings delivering a range of advice and support universally in partnership with health visitors and therapists and specialist advice and support located within universal services to ensure identification and response to need (e.g. SEND specialist HV team, CAMHS clinicians).

This workstream is therefore both looking at our strategic approach to delivering the Healthy Child Programme in the city, the balance between targeted and universal pathways, as well as the practicalities (i.e workforce and process requirements) and implications (i.e. impact on capacity) of increasing our universal coverage (noting that the SE average for universal health reviews is 80-85% for quarters 1&2 23/24 and England average 76-87%.) it will also be looking at pathways into support for those children identified at the 12 month and 2-2.5 year check and their impact.

The local area partnership should review and further strengthen their strategic approach to transition at each point including preparation for adulthood in a timely way, so that children and young people consistently receive the right help and support they need to lead successful lives.

The Inspection identified that whilst there were good examples of transition, this was not consistently the case for all children and young people, highlighting timeliness of planning and identification and supporting needs for children below statutory thresholds as being particular issues. This was the case both for children moving from one school phase to another as well as those preparing for adulthood.

This workstream is therefore focussed on improving transition planning between pre-school, primary and secondary phases as well as on preparation for adulthood. It encompasses the existing preparing for adulthood work programme, significantly broadening the scope and engagement – health, care, education and wider – to improve the timeliness of identification and planning for young people with non statutory but still complex health and care needs, continue to extend the offer of advice, information and support across the system as well as improving the coverage of Annual Health Checks in primary care for young people aged 14-17

The other two recommendations are:

1 - The local area partnership should continue to embed their approach to inclusion and SEND strategy so that practitioners have the skills and expertise to work together effectively to better meet the needs of children and young people across all services.

2- The local area partnership should improve the quality of EHC plans, so that they are of value to all agencies to better drive the provision offered. This should include:

- improved joint working of practitioners across education, health and social care
- more timely and precise annual review process
- more precise action and support for children and young people with an EHC plan who are not on a school roll.

5. Key System-wide Challenges and Enablers to Delivery

Our action plans as outlined above are ambitious but necessary to secure the improvement required for children and young people with SEND in Southampton. None of these actions can be delivered in isolation; delivery will be heavily dependent on whole system commitment to supporting the cultural and behavioural change required.

	<p>Health and Wellbeing partners as system leaders are therefore being asked to champion these action plans and encourage and embed the behavioural and cultural changes required within their organisations/sphere of influence. In particular this will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing a more needs-led approach to Neurodiversity within health and care, across adult and children’s services, moving away from a focus on diagnosis and focussing instead on early identification of and response to need. • Recognising that preparation for adulthood can start at any age and that all services have a role to play in preparing young people for adulthood. • For adult services to be engaging in preparing for adulthood plans at an earlier age (prior to 17 years 6 months), recognising that this early engagement is about good joint planning and not transition of care. • Implementing a transitional safeguarding approach, by proactively identifying young people who may not be eligible for Adult Services but still have complex social needs which puts them at risk of poor health, care and wellbeing outcomes and working together to support their preparation for adulthood.
6.	<p>We have 35 working days from July 9th to prepare an action plan in response to the key recommendations.</p> <p>The final plan should be approved by August 27th 2024.</p> <p>Given the proximity of the school holidays and the impact this has on our key school stakeholders and the Parent Carer Forum, we have commenced our co-production at pace, ensuring that the necessary confidentiality against the final report has been maintained.</p> <p>Co-production meetings/engagements have been held to date as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton SEND Partnership Forum • Preparing for Adulthood Strategy group • Southampton Parent Carer Forum • Southampton Special Heads two hour conference session • Southampton mainstream Heads via email • Health, Social Care and Education colleagues <p>Over the summer break it will be more challenging to keep stakeholders abreast of developments on the action plans so we will be conducting much of this via email exchange.</p> <p>Now that the report has been published we will work with our VCS and our lead Young Co-producer who took part in the inspection.</p>

	<p>Governance and accountability</p> <p>The post inspection action plan will be monitored and overseen by the SEND Partnership Forum and the H&IOW ICS All-age Learning Disability and Autism Programme.</p> <p>In order to make this effective the SEND Partnership Forum is amending its ToR (including a change of name to SEND Partnership Board and to include the explicit oversight of this plan) and the establishment of a set of performance KPIs which are currently in development as a part of the response to the full SEND Inspection.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
	None at this stage
<u>Property/Other</u>	
	None at this stage
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
	<p>The SEN Code of Practice 2014</p> <p>Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014</p> <p>The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014</p> <p>The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014</p> <p>The Care Act 2014</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010</p>
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
	N/a
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
	Oversight of key risks and their mitigation is provided through the local SEND Partnership, chaired by the Executive Director of Children and Learning.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
	<p>The recommendations and learning from this report are important in achieving better outcomes for in Southampton, as outlined in the Southampton City Council Corporate Plan 2022 – 30:</p> <p><i>‘Ensure that children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) have their needs met in local, inclusive and high-quality settings including the opportunity to access, participate in and shape a range of cultural and leisure opportunities.’</i></p>

KEY DECISION?	No
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WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	SEND inspection full report
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None.
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None.