



Lancashire SEND Partnership Board Meeting

16th January 2020, 10.30am – 12.30pm

The Jack McLaughlin Centre, Corpus Christi High School, Preston

Attendees, Board members:

Edwina Grant OBE, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, Lancashire County Council (Chair)

Julie Higgins, Joint Chief Officer with responsibility for SEND, BwD and East Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group (Vice Chair)

Jo Bebbington, Parent, Carer

Sarah Callaghan, Director of Education and Skills, Lancashire County Council

Dave Carr, Head of Service Policy, Information and Commissioning, Policy, Information and Commissioning, Lancashire County Council

Tara Entwistle, Early Years Representative

Tricia Farey, Parent, Carer

Matthew Fisher, Young person from POWAR

Hilary Fordham, Chief Operating Officer, NHS Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group

Fiona Grieveson, Lancashire Special Schools Head Teachers Association

Anne Hardman, Designated Clinical Officer, South Area

Dr Maria Hall, Community Health Representative

Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Helen Lynch, Lancashire SEND Health Provider Forum Chair and SEND Champion

Kate Reddy, Parent Carer

Sally Richardson, Head of Inclusion Service, Lancashire County Council

Evie Smith, Young person from Lancashire Youth Council

Tina Wilkinson, Primary Heads in Lancashire

Jennie Wynn, Mental Health Representative

In attendance:

Helen Makinson, SEND Partnership Project Lead

Sian Rees, SEND Improvement Partner

Zoe Richards, Senior Programme Manager for SEND

Apologies:

Debbie Duffell, Head of Service Children and Family Wellbeing, Lancashire County Council

Jane Galbraith, Lancashire Association Secondary Schools Head Teachers

Charlotte Hammond, Head of Service Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health,
Lancashire County Council

Michelle Howard, The Lancashire Colleges

Sam Jones, Chair of the Lancashire Parent, Carer Forum

Notes of the meeting:

1. Welcome and apologies

Edwina Grant welcomed attendees to the Board meeting. By request the new attendees introduced themselves; Jennie Wynn has joined the Board as the Mental Health representative, Helen Lynch now represents the Lancashire SEND Provider Forum on the Board and Zoe Richards attended as the new Senior Programme Manager for SEND.

2. Update from 14 November meeting

All actions noted to be either complete, being actioned or on the meeting agenda.

3. SEND Inspection Revisit

Sian Rees provided a brief update on the SEND revisit. The revisit was due to take place before 25 October 2019 but no notification has yet been received. It was reported that Durham, which received its plan approval at a similar time to Lancashire, will start its revisit next week. There is no known timetable for Lancashire's revisit but in readiness the partnership inspection team have refreshed all documentation and will continue to do so regularly. Edwina Grant recognised the work Sian Rees has undertaken to ensure the partnership is as prepared as possible.

Action 1 – All to look out for messages from sendpartnershipinspection@lancashire.gov.uk

Edwina Grant congratulated Salford on the outcome of its SEND inspection, noting that the Director of Children's Services prioritised the youngest children from her appointment eight years ago and this effort towards early diagnosis is now evident in the quality inspection feedback.

Action 2 - Circulate Salford SEND inspection report when available

4. Lancashire Break Time Redesign

Sally Richardson updated on the redesign work. Data and information is now being analysed and all contributions and feedback considered to inform the options paper for Cabinet. Edwina Grant queried what might be included within the Cabinet paper and it was confirmed that a variety of proposals are being considered including, amongst others; continuing the offer in its current form, implementing a flexible purchasing system and commissioning services.

County Councillor Rear stated that through her visits and meetings, current practice appeared to be good and young people were keen for this provision to be maintained.

The Board discussed a range of issues including the purpose of the offer, equality of access and clarity between Short Breaks and Lancashire Break Time. This discussion highlighted a broader issue around the shortage of care for young people with SEND. Edwina Grant concluded the item confirming that an options paper will be taken to the Cabinet meeting on 12 March 2020.

Further to this, Sally Richardson updated on a short term project between Children's and Adult services to improve options around personal budgets for children and young people. Adult services within the County Council are successful in providing personal budgets and have developed the provider market to support this. The project aims to improve communication between departments and to begin developing the children's provider market.

Action 3– Provide Personal Budgets Project Update to Board

Tricia Farey noted that parents experience a lack of trust to spend personal budgets appropriately. Edwina Grant confirmed this cultural point would be passed back to the service. It was noted that elected members are aware of this project.

Action 4 – Feedback parents views on personal budgets to services

5. SEND Commissioning Plan

Dave Carr presented the SEND Commissioning Plan 2019-2021 which has been developed using the key messages from the thematic JSNA for SEND in Lancashire. The plan sets out shared priorities to review and refresh service specifications and commissioning arrangements for jointly commissioned services and provides an overview for the next 2-3 years. It was noted that the SEND Partnership Board will be responsible for the progress of this work. The plan will be a living document and continually shaped across the priority areas.

Edwina Grant praised this piece of work and requested the eight priorities be discussed individually to enable Board members to comment. The following key points are included below:

Priority 1- Deprivation. To be discussed as an agenda item at the March Board.

Priority 2 – Exclusions. Sarah Callaghan commented on the much improved SEND exclusions data and proposed refreshing the current data dashboard to include current activity and targets to help bring together coherence across all partnership activity. A tool from Wigan council to look at impact was referenced as an example of best practice and potentially one to replicate. Edwina Grant noted the significant public responsibility we have around exclusions and the importance of schools working together to support each other.

Priority 3- Out of county placements. Sufficiency strategy on the meeting agenda.

Priority 4 – Health. Maria Hall requested physical health needs be included alongside mental health. The Board discussed available health services for young people and the role of the Local Offer in signposting to services. The CAMHS service was discussed and it was agreed a presentation be brought to the July Board meeting.

Action 5 – Add CAMHS Progress to Board forward planner for July 2020

Priority 5 – Early identification. Tara Entwistle raised issues with accessing specialist therapies for early years and Hilary Fordham agreed to address through the Accessible Services working group.

Action 6- Review early years access to specialist therapies

Priority 6 – Data. The Board discussed how success will be measured more closely in future. The importance of including child focused outcomes was stressed as was refining success criteria to evidence achievements.

Priority 7- Joint working. Continue to develop joint working arrangements.

Priority 8 – Transitions. Preparing for adulthood on the meeting agenda.

6. Preparing for Adulthood

Sarah Callaghan provided an overview of the work to date on Preparing for Adulthood. Three papers were shared; a vision and ambition, a framework for delivery and a series of audit questions. The audit questions will provide an honest appraisal of the current position from which a baseline will be established and measures agreed. The vision will be used to inform a strategy and an action plan. Zoe Richards provided background to the development of the ambition document and noted that views from parent carers were welcome.

Action 7 – A task and finish group reporting to the Preparing for Adulthood Steering Group will develop the Ambition, Framework and Audit into a strategy document with an implementation plan

Edwina Grant agreed that progress is being made but queried how parents would know this as their experiences have not yet changed. Tricia Farey and Jo Bebbington expressed concerns regarding young people without an EHC plan losing support post 16 and other young people not being represented. The importance of staff training to ensure outcomes are focused on Preparing for Adulthood was discussed. Sally Richardson confirmed that training is being offered to staff and education partners and Zoe Richards stated this would be further addressed through the Multi-agency Workforce Development working group.

Action 8 – Review Preparing for Adulthood outcome training

It was noted that within Lancashire SENDO caseloads are above statistical average and this must be addressed alongside training needs.

The Board were asked to note the progress to date on Preparing for Adulthood and review the documents.

Action 9 – Board members to review Preparing for Adulthood papers and feedback comments to the SEND Partnership by 7 February

7. Strategy for SEND Achievement

Sarah Callaghan highlighted that improving education outcomes was identified as a priority area within the 2017 SEND inspection. Work has been ongoing in this area and a strategy has now been produced with partners which sets out; the ambition to improve outcomes, how this will be achieved and the governance arrangements.

Edwina Grant noted that experiences differ between primary and secondary schools and using expertise in primary to support transition will continue to be important.

Sally Richardson informed the Board that the number of Education Health Care plans nationally has increased by 35% over the last 5 years and caseloads for SENDOs are very high. The situation in Lancashire is very similar and caseloads are high in comparison with statistical neighbours. Edwina Grant confirmed that this issue will be addressed and a plan will be brought back to a future Board meeting.

Action 10 – Plans for caseload demand to be shared at future Board meeting

The Board discussed the ongoing issue of families being driven through the EHC plan process due to lack of support. It was noted that linking the SEND Partnership's work with Early Help and supporting schools to accommodate children and young people with SEND is essential. Edwina Grant noted the progress that has been made on Early Help and that a draft strategy has been shared at the Children's Partnership Board.

8. SEND Sufficiency Strategy

Sarah Callaghan updated on the proposed SEND Sufficiency Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to ensure there are a range of provision types available for children and young people with SEND and actions are included to support the management of future demand. It was noted that in Lancashire there is an increased demand for certain areas of need which has led to budgetary pressures.

Sally Richardson outlined that the strategy is being considered at Cabinet's January meeting, alongside a paper outlining proposals for two capital projects aiming to create more than 140 special school places in the east and south of the county. These include proposals to increase capacity at Sir Tom Finney Community High School in Preston by opening up the first floor of the current school site. Similarly it's proposed to increase the number of special school places available in Burnley and the surrounding area, by moving Broadfield Specialist School in Oswaldtwistle to the Hameldon school site in Burnley.

Also being proposed within this Cabinet paper is the establishment of 12 primary and 12 secondary SEND units attached to mainstream schools in the following areas: Accrington/Burnley, Colne/Nelson, Fleetwood/Lytham, Lancaster, Morecambe, Ormskirk/Skelmersdale and Preston/Leyland. Sally Richardson confirmed that expressions of interest from Primary and Secondary Mainstream schools will be sought to develop these SEND Units within their current provision. All schools will be able to bid for this provision and clear criteria will be provided.

Action 11 - Begin expressions of interest process following Cabinet approval

It was noted that an ambition of the strategy is to increase the level of inclusion in our mainstream schools. Fiona Grieveson reported that training to mainstream had been received very positively through the Inclusion Hub work.

9. Partnership Progress

An updated SEND Improvement Plan was included with the Board papers for information. A summary slide on progress to date outlined that of the total 94 actions; 52 are completed, 14 are in progress and will meet deadline, 20 are underway, 5 are delayed and at risk but there is mitigating action, and 3 are not yet started (due to longer planned timelines).

Sian Rees noted that as many of the actions within the plan are complete it is now timely to draft a new plan. Julie Higgins observed that it would be helpful to review the partnership's work by grouping activity as short, medium or long term and it was agreed this would be an appropriate way to structure the new plan. Content suggestions included; Culture, Consistency, Preparing for Adulthood alongside a review of Quality Impact measures.

Action 12 – Draft new plan structure for consultation at March 2020 Board

Each of the four thematic leads presented on their area of the improvement plan, this included further detail on any delayed actions and available key performance indicators.

Meeting Need- Sally Richardson noted that the reporting of health advices was not accurate within the report but confirmed that 100% of health advices had been received. Social Care advice received was reported at 35% and this is being addressed through training.

Equal Partners- the Local Offer has been relaunched and the next step will be user testing. No metrics on usage or quality are available at this stage but these are being developed.

Accessible Service – Hilary Fordham updated that the delayed actions relate to contracting issues with Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy services in the East of

the County. Dave Carr confirmed the mixed picture with Morecambe Bay Hospital Trust and Blackpool and Fylde Teaching Hospital contracts in place but dialogue is ongoing with Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust.

Education Outcomes- Sarah Callaghan highlighted the improvements in the NEET figures for SEND young people. The Achieving Success group has driven this area of work which is now progressing well. The delayed action is now progressing following the production of the Sufficiency strategy.

10. Business Items

The audit report shows the overall quality of new plans is improving. Additionally the provision of advice being incorporated into plans is improving. Edwina Grant welcomed this positive progress and commended partners' work in this area.

11. Forward Planner and Close

The Board Forward Planner was included within the papers. Edwina Grant thanked the Board for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Dates and times of future meetings

Future meeting dates and times confirmed below. All meetings to be held at The Jack McLaughlin Centre, Corpus Christi Catholic High School, St. Vincent's Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8QY.

- 23 March 2.00-4.00pm
- 12 May 2.00-4.00pm
- 15 July 2.00-4.00pm

Action Summary

Agenda Item	Actions from meeting	Who	When	Progress
SEND Inspection Revisit	1 All to look out for messages from sendpartnershipinspection@lancashire.gov.uk	All	Ongoing	SEND Revisit Communications Plan in place
SEND Inspection Revisit	2 Circulate Salford SEND inspection report when available	Helen Makinson	When available	To be circulated when available
Lancashire Break Time Redesign	3 Provide Personal Budgets Project Update to Board	Sally Richardson	23/3/20	Update to be provided to March Board
Lancashire Break Time Redesign	4 Feedback parents views on personal budgets to services	Sarah Callaghan/Sally Richardson	23/3/20	To be considered as part of action 3

SEND Commissioning Plan	5	Add CAMHS Progress to Board forward planner for July 2020	Helen Makinson	27/1/20	Complete. Added to forward planner
SEND Commissioning Plan	6	Review early years access to specialist therapies	Hilary Fordham	23/3/20	To be discussed at the Accessible Services working group. Update to March Board
Preparing for Adulthood	7	A task and finish group reporting to the Preparing for Adulthood Steering Group will develop the Ambition, Framework and Audit into a strategy document with an implementation plan	Zoe Richards	12/5/20	Report to May Board
Preparing for Adulthood	8	Review Preparing for Adulthood outcome training	Zoe Richards	31/3/20	To be considered by the Multi-agency Workforce Development working group
Preparing for Adulthood	9	Board members to review Preparing for Adulthood papers and feedback comments to the SEND Partnership by 7 February	All	7/2/20	Request included with Board notes sent 29/1/20
Strategy for SEND Achievement	10	Plans for caseload demand to be shared at future Board meeting	Sally Richardson	Tbc	Plan to be shared at future Board meeting; added to Forward Planner
SEND Sufficiency Strategy	11	Begin expressions of interest process following Cabinet approval	Sally Richardson	31/3/20	Initial meetings to agree process arranged.
Partnership Progress	12	Draft new plan structure for consultation at March 2020 Board	SEND Board Operations Group	23/3/20	Agenda item for Ops Group on 12/2/20