

# Written Statement of Action (WSOA)

## Summary of our progress

Updated March 2020<sup>1</sup>



In November 2017, Ofsted and CQC inspected the Lancashire local area and identified twelve areas of concern. This summary provides an update on progress achieved.

### **1. Leaders from across the partnership are working together strategically to deliver a shared vision.**

- Lancashire SEND Partnership was established in March 2018 and a new vision and strategy agreed.
- The SEND Partnership Board has representatives from all partners, including young people and parent carers.
- The Action Plan (WSOA) aims to secure improvement and ultimately realise the Partnership vision.
- The Board monitors progress on the plan and considers all aspects improvement.
- Accountable officers lead the Partnership and report progress to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- An Operational Group drives progress and reports to the Partnership Board.
- New posts have been created including a Director of Education and Skills and Designated Clinical Officers.

### **2. There is increasing understanding about the needs of the local area and the strengths and weaknesses in performance.**

- A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has been published, alongside a data dashboard that provides information relating to education, health and care.
- The dashboard is updated regularly and will help inform decision making.
- Data and information is shared with and considered by the SEND Partnership Board.
- Performance data is being analysed to improve understanding and drive improvement.
- Providers are sharing good practice and contributing to improvement.

### **3. Joint commissioning arrangements have been reviewed and, informed by the JSNA, priorities agreed. Service redesign/commissioning has begun.**

- A joint strategy for commissioning is in place.
- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) services are being re-commissioned.
- A re-design of the emotional health and well-being service is taking place; this includes CAMHS to age 19 to support transition into adult services.
- All age services for learning disability and eating disorders have been commissioned and implemented.
- Special School Nursing service is being recommissioned jointly following a review.

### **4. Parent carers are part of the strategic governance and leadership arrangements. Parent Carer Forum members are active members of the partnership.**

- Co-production is taking place, with active participation by parent carers in improvement.
- The Parent Carer Forum (PCF) is established with the Chair representing families on the Partnership Board.
- The PCF is part of the Partnership leadership and operational arrangements.
- Local Area Partnership meetings take place, along with informal 'coffee and cake' events for parent carers.
- The POET survey informs the Board and commissioning managers about the views of almost 3,000 parent carers, young people and practitioners.
- A range of ways to communicate with parent carers has been developed.

### **5. Systems and processes of identification reviewed, to improve clarity and transparency. Service recommissioning will improve early identification and school readiness.**

- Over 100 partners have been involved in developing a graduated response document.
- A SEND toolkit has been developed and is available as part of the Local Offer.
- The neurodevelopmental pathway has been co-produced and is being implemented across Lancashire.
- Content for the Local offer has been developed with partners; this was launched in October 2019.
- Three Designated Clinical Officers provide as single point of access to health services.
- Primary Mental Health Workers deliver Youth Mental Health First Aid training.
- A new contract for Health Visiting will ensure needs are identified earlier.

**6. Improvements in the quality of plans is taking place and a quality framework agreed. There is a programme of individual service and multi-agency quality assurance, audit and training.**

- A quality framework was agreed by the SEND Partnership Board to improve the quality of all existing plans.
- The most vulnerable groups have been prioritised; plus, new plans and those for young people making a transition.
- EHC plan writers and contributors have a workforce development programme in place.
- A SEND Auditor was appointed in March 2019 to lead the multi-agency approach to auditing.
- Health provider champions have been identified as a requirement of every contract and training on the quality of plans provided.

**7. The diagnostic pathway for ASD is re-established in the North. A high level pan-Lancashire Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Diagnostic pathway has been co-produced.**

- A pathway is in place in the north and the 135 families on the waiting list seen by a professional.
- High-level pan-Lancashire Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Diagnostic pathway has been designed and agreed with contributions from more than 100 professionals and 400 parent carers.
- More than 90 professionals have been involved in reviewing the pathway to identify gaps for action prior to implementation.
- Tools to support implementation have been developed and governance arrangements established in line with NICE guidelines.

**8. Achieving success is one of four priorities in the Partnership Strategy; action to re-shape support and provision is taking place.**

- A SEND Partnership Strategy is in place with a priority for children and young people to achieve success.
- A new post of Director of Education commenced in August to drive this improvement.
- Thirty SEND reviewers have been trained and a workforce development programme developed with schools.
- Primary inclusion hubs are in place across all districts and recommendations from a review of alternative provision in the secondary sector are being implemented.
- A strategy to improve education outcomes has been co-produced and a draft Sufficiency Strategy agreed.

**9. A number of services have been re-designed and commissioned to improve arrangements for transition in healthcare services.**

- All age eating disorder service has been recommissioned and two all age service specifications developed for Learning Disabilities and Autism.
- Funding has been approved to extend CAMHS services to age of 19 ensuring continuity.
- Public health nursing contract has been recommissioned across Lancashire and includes school readiness.
- Mental Health and Learning Disability Passports have been introduced and are being rolled out.
- An ambition for Preparing for Adulthood has been agreed and an operating framework co-produced.

**10. The number of young people permanently excluded from school has reduced. A process is in place to monitor the exclusion of children and young people with SEND.**

- Schools and the local authority have reduced the number of permanent exclusions for pupils with EHC plans.
- Prevention work with primary schools is taking place through the development of inclusion hubs.
- The recommendations following the external review of secondary support and provision are being implemented.
- All short stay schools have a named Education Psychologist.
- Governor conferences and briefings have focused on responsibilities for pupils with additional needs.

**11. The use of data and information, including the JSNA, is increasingly ensuring the development of provision and services is based on local need.**

- All related health care services in Lancashire have been reviewed and redefined for quality and consistency.
- SEND Champions have been appointed and primary mental health workers are in place.
- A draft Sufficiency Strategy is in place and the Short Breaks offer has been co-produced.
- A Commissioning Plan has been agreed and a range of services commissioned in the context of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

**12. The Local Offer website has been reviewed, redesigned and relaunched and is supported by a range of communication methods.**

- Engagement with families shaped the improved design with clearer content.
- An external partner is hosting a directory of services to ensure the Local Offer is easier to navigate.
- A year long awareness campaign was launched in January 2020 and is supported by partners.
- A Parent Carer Forum website provides parents with information and a link to the Local Offer.
- The phase-two development will ensure continued improvement and development.