

Minutes of Lancashire SEND Partnership Board

19 November 2020 10.30 – 12.30

In Attendance:

Dr Julie Higgins, Chair (Chief Officer, East Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen CCGs and Accountable Officer for SEND for Health)
Sarah Callaghan Director of Education and Skills (LCC)
Hilary Fordham, NHS Chief Operating Officer and Senior Responsible Officer for SEND
Zoe Richards, Senior Programme Manager for SEND for Health, Lancashire & S Cumbria
Dr Maria Hall, Community Health Representative
Dave Carr, Head of Service, Information, Policy and Commissioning (LCC)
Sally Richardson, Head of Service, Inclusion (LCC)
Sarah Gorst, SEND Partnership Officer (LCC)
Anne Hardman, Designated Clinical Officer, South Area
County Councillor Jayne Rear, (LCC)
Fiona Grieveson Lancashire Special Schools Head Teachers Association
Neil Willcocks (Service Manager, Learning Disabilities and Autism)
Lis Smith, Preston's College
Tina Wilkinson, Primary Heads in Lancashire
Evie Smith, Young person from Lancashire Youth Council
Dylan Williams, POWAR
Sam Jones, Chair of the Lancashire Parent, Carer Forum

Apologies:

Edwina Grant, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services (LCC)
Jo Bebbington, Parent, Carer
Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing (LCC)
Tricia Farey, Parent, Carer
Charlotte Hammond, Head of Service Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health

Update from 21 September meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 21st September 2020 were approved as an accurate record. It was noted that all actions were either up to date or were on the agenda.

It was reported that levels of Covid-19 across Lancashire were in decline, however preparation was required due to another surge in cases expected following Christmas. The Covid-19 vaccine is expected to be available in the New Year. Attendees confirmed that even in this context, SEND continues to be a priority and work on the APP is ongoing.

Attendees agreed that the Board continues to work effectively in supporting vulnerable children and young people in Lancashire.

Our shared accountability, roles and contribution

Members of the Board were asked to consider their joint roles and responsibilities as a partnership, the aim being to refresh the terms of reference to ensure a collective understanding of priorities and purpose. It was agreed that further work on this would come from the workshop element of the meeting.

The Partnership Board agreed that improvement continues to be required in the 5 action areas which remain under scrutiny from DFE and NHS as an outcome of the SEND revisit in March 2020, and that traction cannot be lost on the 7 areas from the SEND improvement Plan that are now out of scope of central monitoring. A clear strategy and approach is required across all SEND services in Lancashire as part of a refreshed SEND Improvement Plan.

Furthermore, the Board confirmed its role to ensure delivery of improved outcomes for all children and young people with SEND in line with the ambitions set out within the SEND reforms. With that in mind, the Board agreed the need to determine: the agreed areas of focus that need attention alongside the 5 areas that are subject to the accelerated progress plan; how relevant officers evidence improvements; and the impact and effectiveness in making positive changes to the lived experience of children and young people with SEND in Lancashire.

ACTION: January 2021 SEND Workshop

Sarah Callaghan with relevant colleagues will organise a workshop in January 2021 to share the experience of children and young people in Lancashire with SEND, and to identify the next steps required to ensure positive progress and improvements can be identified. It was agreed that this work will shape the refreshed SEND improvement plan for 2021-2026. The new iteration of the improvement plan will then equip partners to robustly monitor, check and challenge progress.

Board Workshop Groupwork

At the last meeting, the Board requested dedicated time to review its role and purpose. Board members were split into groups and asked to consider the following questions about the SEND Board

1. What is good about the Board?
2. What could be better about the Board?
3. What contributions could be given?
4. How could you make the Board better?

Following the groupwork, attendees collectively agreed on the following:

- The groups agreed that the Board meetings are useful for feedback from partners and for meeting with different people involved in SEND improvements. There is a wide range of different partners and perspectives.
- Solution focused ideas to address problems is welcomed by partners.
- It is felt that the Board is a safe environment for open discussions, and everyone feels that what they say is valued by other partners.

- The Board needs to clarify its purpose in relation to assurance, decision-making and check/challenge in order to use case studies in a meaningful, practical and productive way.
- Board members requested further input in relation to KPIs in order to provide the opportunity to challenge and undertake scrutiny on deliverables.
- The Board welcomes greater opportunities to hear lived experience from CYP and families.
- Groups asked the Board to provide greater clarity regarding the impact and effectiveness of improvements so that these can be shared with groups and bodies that partners represent.
- A request was made to develop greater clarity regarding actions and thematic issues for Board members from each meeting in order to take these back to the groups and bodies they represent.
- A group requested the sharing of information in a format that can be shared easily with the groups and bodies they represent.
- The Board was seen as a useful place to have healthy conversations on how we can work more efficiently together.
- A request was made to find ways to involve young people more through something outside of the meetings to bring together a wider range of CYP voices.
- The Board is seen as a full partnership that represents a range of views

ACTION: Using the Feedback

Sarah Gorst to investigate the possibility of setting up a shadow board for young people to contribute to as a route to bring together a wider range of CYP voices.

Zoe Richards to assess the feedback from the groups and identify future actions required.

UPDATE FROM THE ACCELERATED PROGRESS PLAN

Local Offer Updates

A Project Group has been set up to support the work of the Local Offer and the new Local Offer Development Officer, Anna Burkinshaw, has been appointed to commence in January 2021.

The web-based feedback tool is now in place on the local offer website. Although feedback has been received, numbers are not sufficiently high to deliver meaningful information. Partners were therefore asked to share the Local Offer and the feedback tool across their network to spread word on the opportunity to provide live feedback on the website.

ACTION: Sharing of the Local Offer and the Feedback Tool

Dave Carr will ask Lisa Taylor to share the link to the Local Offer with partners and ask for this and the feedback tool to be shared widely.

Joint Commissioning Arrangements

The Joint commissioning framework has been refreshed providing greater clarity regarding the management of joint funding and joint commissioning arrangements. A new commissioning group has been set up covering the County Council area which brings commissioning partners together to better understand commissioning gaps and improvement needs. Additionally, the review of the special school nursing is progressing, with a series of workshops underway, and the review of the special nursing services is on-going. Finally, the continence policy review is progressing, with a view to having a consistent policy in place early in 2021

Absence of Effective Diagnostic ASD Pathway

A Paper was submitted to Collaborative Commissioning Board outlining a recovery plan alongside a longer-term whole-system improvement plan. CCB granted NHS £620,000 to address the recovery plan.

The NHS is linking in with National Autism Team for benchmarking and support, including undertaking a gap and feasibility analysis, with the final report due end of December 2020.

ND pathway – The work of the ND pathway is currently being prioritised in the context of ASD recovery plan work.

Reporting the Accelerated Progress Plan to the Partnership Board

Zoe Richards presented a sample Highlight Report to the Board to demonstrate the proposed reporting mechanism on progress for the SEND Operations Group, SEND Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board SEND Sub-Committee, and the DfE and NHSE monitoring meetings.

ACTION: Reporting on the Accelerated Progress Plan

Zoe Richards and Sarah Gorst to submit highlight reports to each future Partnership Board meeting for the five actions under the Accelerated Progress Plan.

Actions from this meeting to be entered onto Action Tracker

1. Zoe Richards and Sarah Callaghan will continue to populate the Lancashire data dashboard and present it to the Operations Group on a monthly basis, and to each Partnership Board meeting.
2. Workshop to be set up prior to the next Board meeting to develop the next iteration of the SEND improvement plan for 2021-2026. Laura Dunbar to send date out to partners.
3. Sarah Gorst to investigate the possibility of setting up a shadow board for young people to contribute to as a route to bring together a wider range of CYP voices.
4. Zoe Richards to assess the feedback from the groups and identify future actions required.
5. Partners are asked to review the Terms of Reference, and check whether they reflect the workshop discussions, identifying any changes that are required. Any

amendments are to be forwarded to Laura Dunbar by Monday 11th January 2021 in order for a new draft to be shared with papers for the next Board meeting on 21st January 2021.

6. Partners will be sent a fun SEND Christmas Quiz to build on understanding of SEND.
7. Zoe Richards and Sarah Gorst to submit highlight reports to each future Partnership Board meeting for the five actions under the Accelerated Progress Plan.
8. Preparing for Adulthood to be added to the Forward Plan for the March 2021 meeting.