

Agenda Item:14.0

<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Governing Body</i></p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>held in public</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Report</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">Date of Meeting:</p>
---	---

Report Title	Special Education Needs Disability (SEND) Bedford Borough Written Statement of Action Update		
Report Author	Presented By	Responsible Director	
Chris Morris Programme Manager	Anne Murray, Chief Nurse, BLMK Commissioning Collaborative	Anne Murray Chief Nurse	
Anne Murray Chief Nurse		Signature: 	
Purpose for presenting report	This report outlines the progress and risks associated with delivering the transformation of services required to meet the statutory functions required for SEND services.		
Action Required:	For information only		
Approval Route:	Integrated Commissioning and Quality Committee		
Further Assurance:			
Which Strategic Objectives does this report provide evidence for?			Please Tick ✓
We will commission high quality, safe and sustainable models of care that deliver effective clinical outcomes and patient experience using evidence based decisions and best practice			x
We will ensure that there is a financially sustainable and affordable healthcare system in Bedfordshire.			
We will lead, engage and operate as an effective place based and STP wide system partner to achieve greater integration of care delivery.			
We will support local people and stakeholders to have an influence on services we commission to ensure our decisions are informed and shaped by local views and insights.			x
We will operate and manage our Governing Body to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.			
Implications/Assessments	Yes	No	N/A
Have any financial implications been signed off by the Chief Finance Officer?			x
Have any quality implications been signed off by the Director of Nursing & Quality?	x		
Have any privacy implications been signed off by the Head of Information Governance?			x
Have any conflicts of interest implications been signed off by the Corporate Office?			x
Have any public engagement implications been signed off by the Head of Communications & Engagement?			x
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?			
Key Risks	Inability to transform the services and therefore achieve improved outcomes for SEND children and their families.		

	<p>Failure to improve services sufficiently to be declared fit for purpose by Ofsted/CQC during re - inspection within the next 8 months.</p> <p>Poor inspection result for Central Bedfordshire Council which is due imminently.</p>
<p>Executive Summary</p>	<p>The local area of Bedford Borough was inspected by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission from 5 - 9 February 2018 to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The lead Inspector determined that Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group were required to jointly submit a Written Statement of Action because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice.</p> <p>The Statement of Action response was presented to the Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body on 6 June 2018 as well as the Council Executive on 13 June 2018. The final response was submitted to OFSTED by 6 July 2018 and has been formally approved.</p> <p>Bedford is due to be re-inspected on progress made against each of the areas of weakness identified in the local area inspection between 12 – 18 months from the publication of the statement of action response (July 2018). This means that we could be re-inspected any time from August 2019.</p> <p>Central Bedfordshire Council are awaiting their inspection.</p>

Current Position

The SEND Improvement Board (SIB), chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Childrens Services and Education, provides the governance for the implementation of the SEND reforms and will provide the ongoing governance for the Statement of Action response and action plan.

Following a Clinical Summit held across BLMK a new Health Transformation Group has been set up July 2019 chaired by the Chief Nurse to ensure focus and delivery against the key milestones with provider services.

BCCG has adopted the WSoA as its robust action plan with the key actions held within the WSoA being identified as to what needs to be undertaken to improve outcomes for Children and Young People with SEND and their families. BCCG has signed up to the agreed shared Outcomes Framework for SEND and the Bedford Borough Coproduction Charter and jointly produced the Joint SEND Strategy 2019 – 2022 for the Bedford Local Area.

In order to accelerate the work required, the Council and the CCG have jointly appointed two new officers to lead the work required. The SEND Programme Manager has refreshed the WSoA as well as the task and finish groups that feed into the SIB through checkpoint

reports and which will drive the actions identified in the WSoA. This has provided clear governance structures around delivery of the WSOA.

Positives:

- BCCG chair half of the Task and Finish Groups taking an equal responsibility for delivering the WSoA alongside the LA
- The EHCP Outcomes training led by the DCO has been well received with good representation from health at the training
- Co-Production Charter created and shared across the system
- Joint SEND Strategy created and published
- Joint Outcomes Framework created
- Joint funding between Local Authority and BCCG identified to fund a project to clear the backlog of children and young people with Speech and Language Provision identified in their EHCP who have not been seen in over 12 months
- New Local Offer Launched

New Current actions this month:

- Full time member of the quality team seconded to fulfil the Designated Clinical Officer Post to ensure resilience and to allow focus on service improvements and relationships with Parent Carer Forum.
- 10K Funding agreed to support Parent Carers in their role in each council.
- Focus group and webinar planned for 8th July to ensure action against back log cases within SLT and plans to deliver new model of care.

Areas of concern / risks:

- Data – The lack of a SEND data set for the local area was an area of weakness during the inspection and yet we have not progressed in this area. The Local Authority are providing data around social care and education in relation to SEND, however we have only recently started to report health data into the joint SEND performance Report. This data was taken from already reported on data in SQPR's, however it is not 'SEND Specific'. Providers struggling to identify who in their service is 'SEND' and who in their service has an 'EHCP'. Data is starting to be shared between the Local Authority and Health Service Providers to try and support with identification of those with CYP with an EHCP. Agreement now reached with NHS Digital to access their tracing service to gather NHS numbers for all SEND children in Bedford, this will act as common identifier across services to enable accurate and up to date SEND Specific Data reporting.
- Data from Q.3 and Q.4 shows that of the 53 requests made to community health services to contribute advice into an EHCP only 1 was submitted with the 6 week statutory timeline.
- Speech and Language Therapy – A deep dive into those CYP with SLT provision listed in their EHCP showed there were 220 young people who had not been seen by the service in over 12 months, with many young people having not been seen in over 2 years. Additional resource has been found to try and clear this backlog and it is envisioned that all of these young people will have been seen by a speech and language therapist by the end of November 2019. Further work is planned to understand what lessons can be learnt to avoid us being in this position again.
- Despite the jointly commissioned posts we are still very much at the beginning of the journey of joint commissioning. We have no joint commissioning strategy nor do we have agreed joint commissioning intentions. The plan is to have a joint commissioning strategy in place by 1st July 2019 as well as to explore opportunities of shared budgets through a section 75 agreement.

- Senior Level Commitment and strategic leads for SEND across BCCG; these are two clear actions set out in our WSoA. We can evidence 'named leads' but what does that mean in reality? Is SEND truly viewed as 'everybody's business' across the BCCG? If not, how can we address this as a governing body?
- Co-Production within commissioned services; we need to ensure that all service redesign is taking place in coproduction with the Parent Carer Forum. This is part of the NHS constitution and BCCG agreement within the coproduction charter. We need to be championing coproduction at every meeting that is taking place; from acute to community providers, from contract monitoring to transformation meetings.
- Sensory Processing Difficulty is an area that our parents and carers are raising as a gap in service provision. Our current offer through Paediatric Occupational Therapy is not meeting demand and a new delivery model is required to meet the demand.
- Assistant Director - Children and Maternity Services has left her post and the position is being covered at present with various team members the acting up. Currently the recruitment processes are finalised and we transition to new structures resulting in added pressures to the system.

Recommendation

1. Commitment to signing of coproduction charter and promotion in all meetings with commissioned services – identifying all opportunities for coproduction and self reflection on any areas where we are not current coproducing where we should be.
2. Commitment to Joint Commissioning Strategy and intentions with Local Authority and support with Section 75 if required.
3. Support development and delivery of new model for SLT level around SEND and WSoA ahead of re-inspection. Update to be provided at next Board.
4. Support with capacity and resource around DCO to improve health contributions into EHCP in line with statutory guidelines.
5. Agree resource allocation to parent carer forum
6. Regular updates will be provided to the Governing Body around progress against the ongoing risks.