

<b>Title</b>	<b>Wirral Statement of Action Progress Briefing</b>
Date	10.05.22
To:	Headteachers, SENCOs, school staff, local authority officers and managers, health professionals, commissioners, education professionals and parents/carers
From:	Hannah Myers, Performance and Improvement Manager
CC:	Workstream Leads

### 1. Who is this briefing for?

This briefing note is intended to inform stakeholders who are involved in providing support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This includes:

- Headteachers and school staff
- SENCO's
- Health professionals
- Education professionals
- Local authority managers and officers
- Parents/carers (there is also a separate briefing for parents/carers)
- Children and young people

### 2. What is the purpose of the briefing?

The purpose of the briefing note is to provide an update on the progress on the actions identified in the Wirral Statement of Action (WsoA). This is the improvement plan for SEND which has been produced following the local area inspection of SEND undertaken by the CQC and Ofsted.

### 3. Background information

In October 2021, a joint local area SEND inspection was conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Following the inspection, the local area was required to submit a Written Statement of Action in response to the findings and 'areas of significant weakness' as outlined in the inspection report.

Between December 21, and February 2022, workshops and engagement sessions were held with partners, stakeholders, parents and carers and young people to consider and discuss the actions that were needed to improve services and address the development areas, as identified.

A final version of the Wirral Statement of Action was submitted to the Department for Education in March. On 28<sup>th</sup> March, a joint letter was received from the CQC and Ofsted confirming that the WSoA had been approved.

#### 4. Wirral Statement of Action Overview

Six workstreams were identified to structure the improvement plan. They are:

- **Workstream 1: Data analysis and joint commissioning.** Led by the Assistant Director, Care and Health and Commissioning for People, this workstream encompasses system and data review, strategic needs analysis and joint commissioning.
- **Workstream 2: Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans and Annual Reviews.** Led by the Assistant Director for Strategy and Partnerships (People), this workstream focusses on improving the timeliness and quality of plans and annual reviews.
- **Workstream 3: Co-production, Communication and Relationships.** Led by the interim Deputy Director for Children's Services, this workstream focusses on strengthening communication with parents, carers and children and young people, ensuring that individual plans and whole-system strategies are co-produced.
- **Workstream 4: Inclusive practices.** Led by the Assistant Director for Education, this workstream seeks to strengthen the quality of practice and support to children and young people with SEND in their local schools and communities.
- **Workstream 5: Local Provision and Strategic oversight.** Led by the Deputy Director of Patient Safety and Quality, this workstream explores ways of reducing complaints and tribunals and ensuring that systems, governance and monitoring is robust and strategic leaders have oversight of key issues and risks.

- **Workstream 6: Local Officer.** Led by the Director for Communication from Wirral CCG, this workstream seeks to ensure that the Local Offer is a highly valued source of information and support to parents, carers, children and young people.

Each workstream has outcomes and actions as detailed within the Plan. Success measures are integral to evidencing improvement. These will provide the foundation which members can assess whether delivery of actions is making a difference.

## 5. Update report – period 1

- **Workstream 1: Data analysis and joint commissioning**
  - Health and local authority partners have agreed data to be shared
  - A review of what data is available is underway
  - Parents and carer survey has been carried out to see what is important to look at
  - A joint commissioner has been appointed to lead joint commissioning work
  - A draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has been completed
- **Workstream 2: EHCP's and Annual Reviews**
  - EHCP compliance checklist and quality standards have been produced
  - Sub-groups and communication arrangements with SEND managers in place
- **Workstream 3: Co-production, relationships and communication**
  - Parent Carer Participation Wirral (PCPW) have been identified as members of the Transformation Board
  - Increased face-to-face and online engagement with parents/carers of Wirral's SEND children
- **Workstream 4: Inclusive Practices**
  - A new early intervention team has been established to support universal offer in schools and to help with early support for children and young people
  - Engagement has taken place with headteachers and SENCOs to better understand training needs

- **Workstream 5: Local provision and strategic oversight**
  - An internal review has commenced to understand detailed information about 20 complaints and why they have been made.
  - Four new inclusion bases have been commissioned – these will have performance indicators and be monitored to ensure quality practice
  
- **Workstream 6: Local Offer**
  - Research of other local offer sites has commenced
  - Members for working group identified and meeting arranged

## 6. Next steps

Work will continue to address the actions identified and evidence improved progress.

The Department for Education and Care Quality Commission will meet with health, education and local authority partners in July to discuss progress.

A further briefing will be produced at this time to update stakeholders on progress.