



## SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD Report

<b>Meeting Date</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023			
<b>Title of Paper</b>	Update on the Ofsted/CQC Area SEND Inspection Revisit in November 2022 and next steps following publication of the inspection report in February 2023			
<b>Reporting Officer and email</b>	David Shaw, Assistant Director Education and Achievement. <a href="mailto:David.shaw@shropshire.gov.uk">David.shaw@shropshire.gov.uk</a> Karen Levell, SEND and Inclusion Service Manager <a href="mailto:Karen.A.Levell@shropshire.gov.uk">Karen.A.Levell@shropshire.gov.uk</a> Tracey Jones, Deputy Director Partnerships Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICS <a href="mailto:Tracey.jones9@nhs.net">Tracey.jones9@nhs.net</a> Jen Griffin, Designated Clinical Officer for SEND <a href="mailto:Jennifer.griffin@nhs.net">Jennifer.griffin@nhs.net</a>			
<b>Which Joint Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this paper address? Please tick all that apply</b>	Children & Young People	X	Joined up working	X
	Mental Health	X	Improving Population Health	X
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity	X	Working with and building strong and vibrant communities	X
	Workforce	X	Reduce inequalities (see below)	X
<b>What inequalities does this paper address?</b>	This report address inequalities for children and young people 0-25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities.			

### 1. Executive Summary

This paper provides an update on the joint Ofsted/CQC Area SEND inspection revisit of services for children with a special education need and/or disability (SEND) in November 2022 and the formal requirements from the DfE/NHS England regarding the preparation, submission and approval of an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) for the three areas judged by Ofsted/CQC to have not made sufficient progress during the inspection in November 2022. The report also includes the approved APP available to view on the public Shropshire Local Offer website.

The Ofsted/CQC revisit inspection report outlines that the Shropshire Area SEND Partnership has made sufficient progress in the following three areas:

- Strategic leadership and planning across the area, including the use of data to accurately commission and plan services. The report recognises that the strategic leadership has strengthened considerably despite the financial pressures, staff turnover and the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The inclusion of health services' input into the area's SEND action plan. There is greater clarity of roles and responsibilities across education, health and social care and leaders work in partnership and have a keen focus on children and young people with SEND.
- The rate of exclusions for children and young people with an EHC plan and the rate of fixed-term exclusions for those receiving SEND support. Leaders' actions to address the high rate of exclusions and suspensions for children and young people with SEND across Shropshire have been successful. They have led to a significant number of exclusions being prevented since the last inspection.

The report highlights that "while many strategic plans are at a very early stage of implementation, they are the right plans and provide a secure base on which to build on the emerging improvements thus far. The pace of change and improvements made by the strategic leadership team have particularly accelerated over the last 12 months."

The report also recognised that the involvement of the parent carer forum (Parent and Carer Council (PACC)) has increased at a strategic level.

It is also noted that "The corporate commitment to children and young people with SEND is now embedded. The strong strategic leadership is successfully beginning to improve the provision, across education, health and social care, for children and young people with SEND in Shropshire."

Further progress is still required to address three outstanding areas identified below;

- Significant wait times for large numbers of children and young people on the ASD and ADHD diagnostic pathways.
- Significant waiting times for those needing assessment and treatment from the speech and language therapy service.
- Inconsistency in the quality of input from education, health and care into EHC assessment and planning.

The three areas listed above are now the focus of an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) formally monitored by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE) at regular intervals. The APP builds upon the SEND action plan reviewed by Ofsted, whilst providing more specific detail around actions to be taken and the desired impact of this work when successful. The APP was formally approved by the DfE and NHSE on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. The APP is reviewed and monitored monthly by the Quality and Assurance Group (QAG) which then reports progress and challenges to the Area SEND Partnership Board.

The Ofsted/CQC inspection revisit report, APP and APP progress update are included as appendices.

The Area SEND Partnership accepts the report findings and is encouraged by many of the positive impact examples recognised by Ofsted. However, it is acknowledged that much more work remains to realise the ambition and positive experiences outlined in the SEND and Inclusion Strategy for all children and young people with SEND.

## **2. Recommendations**

- Note the report and appendices.
- Commend partners in the Area SEND Partnership for their work on delivering improvement across the SEND system, despite ongoing increases in demand and financial pressures.
- Seek assurance that the Area SEND Partnership are doing all they can to promote, support and improve the experience and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
- Identify any key areas of concern where HWBB members could support further improvement/resolution.
- Note that updates from the SHIPP and the Learning Disability and Autism (LDA) group are provided to the SEND Partnership Board via standing items with key papers shared with between the groups to promote cross-working and integration.
- Schedule a future update on the progress of the SEND action plan, including the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP), and the impact this is making to improve the experience and outcomes for children and young people with SEND following the first formal monitoring meeting with the DfE/NHSE.

## **3. Report**

### **Background**

The Ofsted/CQC revisit inspection was completed over three 'on-site' days, 21-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, plus the previous two weeks where documentary evidence was requested and shared with Ofsted/CQC. The inspection report findings are consistent with the Area SEND Partnership self-evaluation.

The Ofsted/CQC revisit inspection report outlines that the Shropshire Area SEND Partnership has made sufficient progress in the following three areas:

- Inconsistent strategic leadership and weak strategic planning across the area, most notably in the CCG, including the ineffective use of data to accurately commission and plan services.
- The lack of inclusion of health services' input into the area's SEND action plan.
- The high rate of exclusions for children and young people with an EHC plan and the high rate of repeat fixed-term exclusions for those receiving SEND support.

The areas identified below require significant further improvement by the Area SEND Partnership and Ofsted/CQC;

- Significant wait times for large numbers of children and young people on the ASD and ADHD diagnostic pathways.
- Significant waiting times for those needing assessment and treatment from the speech and language therapy service.
- Inconsistency in the quality of input from education, health and care into EHC assessment and planning.

The three areas have now become the focus of an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) formally monitored by the DfE and NHSE at regular intervals. The APP builds upon the SEND action plan reviewed by Ofsted, whilst providing more granular detail around actions to be taken and the desired impact of this work when successful. Since the approval of the APP by the DfE/NHSE on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023, the APP has been monitored by the Quality Assurance Group (QAG) monthly and reported to the Area SEND Partnership Board meetings.

The Ofsted/CQC inspection revisit report, APP and APP progress update are included as appendices.

The Area SEND Partnership accepts the report findings and is encouraged by many of the positive impact examples recognised by Ofsted. However, it is acknowledged that much more work remains to realise the ambition and positive experiences outlined in the SEND and Inclusion Strategy for all children and young people with SEND.

***What difference have we made? Our 'Top 15 Successes shared during the inspection'***

1. 44 permanent exclusions avoided/rescinded since 1st Feb 2020 – 14th Nov 2022.
2. Increased the specialist education placements available through mainstream SEND Hubs (7 primary, and 3 secondary) and a new Special Free School - Keystone Academy (YES Trust) opened Sept 2022. Independent review of the SEND Hubs completed during Nov/Dec 2022.
3. 100% Year 6 to 7 phase transfer reviews for 21/22 to 22/23 academic year.
4. Implemented a range of training delivered by DCO and health partners during 2021, now included in the workforce development plan.
5. EHCP advice is improving, and senior leaders have a clear view of 'what good looks like' to enable increasing consistency.
6. Joint funding (Health/LA) has enabled the development of a consistent universal offer for Speech, Language and Communication Needs using Talk Boost and Stoke Speaks Out across all Early Years settings and primary schools.
7. Sep 2021 – to August 2022, 129 out of 141 yes decisions were issued in under 42 days = 91.49% of Agree to assess decisions issued within 6 weeks. Since Sept 2022 56 EHCNA request have been made (up to 31st Oct 2022) with 82% of requests receiving a decision within 6 weeks
8. Implemented Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) across 26 schools (inc. 3 secondaries) which is c.17% of schools in Shropshire.
9. Implemented ways in which the alignment of other social care planning such as for Children Looked After (CLA) with EHCP reviews can secure more integrated planning: outcome CLA-Virtual School reviewed, refreshed and aligned PEP with SEND in Shropshire.
10. PfA Navigator roles funded by Health have been established to support CYP and families during transition
11. 196 families have accessed support from Autism West Midlands without having to wait for an ASD diagnosis .
12. 98% of 677 responses have rated the SCHAT SLT service as good or very good since April 2021 .
13. Developed some effective approaches to accommodation planning for families and YP with SEND working with the Children's Senior Occupational Therapist and the Housing Team.
14. Number of personal budgets has increased from 66 (Jan 21) to 149 (Jan 22)
15. DSCO was appointed for Children's Social Care, increased capacity of DCO and SEND leads within health services.

All achieved through making progress with co-production with parent/carers, young people & SEND Partners, but recognise more to do.

## Next steps

### ***What do we still need to do?***

- Increase the variety of preventative interventions and targeted use of finance to build capacity within the Early Years, schools and 16-25 year sector to effectively identify at the earliest stage and meet the needs of children and young people (CYP) with SEND so they all consistently achieve great outcomes.
- Continue to improve the achievement of all children and young people with SEND (particularly at SEND Support) across all phases of education, including promoting opportunities to develop independence and preparation for employment.
- Implement the workforce development programme across the partnership to enhance the partnership approach to delivering the best outcomes for CYP with SEND.
- Develop a CYP participation strategy across the People's Directorate and ensure the involvement from CYP with SEND.
- Re-design the SEND assessment team processes and systems to ensure maximum efficiency and minimise staffing costs as forecasting predicts continuous growth in demand for statutory services up to 2030.
- Continue to implement the workforce recruitment and retention strategy for Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapists and BeeU therapists to ensure a sufficient workforce.
- Continue to improve the breadth and diversity of provision available in Shropshire, or close to Shropshire, so that children and young people can attend local placements instead of out of borough or in-borough independent special schools, whilst ensuring outcomes identified in their EHC plans continue to improve.
- Confirm and, where possible, simplify the governance arrangements for the Integrated Care System (ICS) so that key decisions are increasing local, and system wide decisions (Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICS area) are well coordinated.
- Implement the SEND action plan, including the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP), to ensure that the vision of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy are realised for all children and young people.
- Ensure that SEND is everyone's business, and this is evident in agendas, minutes and decision making across Shropshire.
- Develop an outcomes framework to ensure that all activity focusses on delivering better outcomes for children and young people with SEND, including their families, and we can all clearly evidence the impact of our work against achieving these outcomes.

In addition to the APP there are 5 further workstreams in development supporting the improvement of the SEND experience in Shropshire, these are:

- SEND and Alternative Provision
- Preparation for Adulthood
- Local Offer and Communications
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing Groups
- Joint Commissioning

Work in these areas has commenced but is at an early stage of development. However, as these groups establish, they will report and be monitored in the same way as the APP to ensure visibility through the SEND Partnership Board.

The five new workstreams and the APP all connect to drive the delivery of the updated SEND and Inclusion strategy priorities that were proposed and approved by the SEND Partnership Board in May 2023;

*The following proposed system wide priorities will enable the implementation of our vision;*

1. Develop sufficient local, high quality and inclusive provision across the system;
2. Develop a system that makes sense, works together and gives CYP and families a voice;

The strategy is being updated to refine and refocus to drive system wide improvement in outcomes for children and young people with SEND and will be finalised in the Autumn term 2023.

The vision statement has been updated to include the highlighted section below, to bring a stronger connection to the Shropshire Plan vision.



## Our shared commitment to the SEND and Inclusion Vision



*“Shropshire children and young people with SEND to be healthy, happy and safe, and able to achieve their potential to lead a fulfilling life.*

*We want them to have, and to expect, the same opportunities in life as other children and young people. **We want them to thrive and live their best life.”***

*The following proposed system wide priorities will enable the implementation of our vision;*

1. Develop sufficient local, high quality and inclusive provision across the system;
2. Develop a system that makes sense, works together and gives CYP and families a voice;

An Outcomes Framework will enable us to evidence progress towards our vision.

**Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal**

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

- The Area SEND Partnership Board holds a summary risk register covering the key risks identified through the various work programmes or discharge of duties. This has been updated considering the development of the APP, publication of the Area SEND inspection report and ongoing monitoring of risk. This will continue to be kept under review as new strategic programmes/national reforms are implemented. This does not replace the individual organisation risk registers held by partners to identify, mitigate and manage risks held.
- The CYP, Families and SEND System Board led by the ICS is also developing a risk register to hold the key risks identified across the ICS area.

<p><b>Financial implications</b> (Any financial implications of note)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional resource requirements continue to be considered, identified and actioned within the SEND action plan, and APP, so that commissioning or governance decisions can be considered for these areas. Additional commissioning capacity has been secured within the LA and is also being secured within the ICS.</li> </ul> <p>To date, key areas where financial implications are highly likely include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant increases (186%) in the numbers of requests for EHC Needs Assessments over the last 12 months. This has implications for the workforce of the entire Area SEND Partnership given that at date of this report more requests for EHC Needs Assessments had been received than the entire 2022 calendar year.</li> <li>Developing a connected and coherent emotional health and mental wellbeing offer (universal, targeted and specialist) and enabling access to this at the earliest opportunity for CYP with different SEND needs.</li> <li>Embedding and right sizing, based on population and need forecasts, the system approach to identifying and meeting different speech, language and communication needs (universal, targeted and specialist) and enabling access to this at the earliest opportunity for all CYP.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Climate Change Appraisal as applicable</b></p>	<p>N/A to this update but applicable to the wider SEND improvement work across Shropshire, such as increasing more local suitable provision, reducing travel time and therefore reducing the carbon footprint from transport.</p>	
<p><b>Where else has the paper been presented?</b></p>	<p><b>System Partnership Boards</b></p>	<p>SEND Partnership Board ShIPP</p>
	<p><b>Voluntary Sector</b></p>	
	<p><b>Other</b></p>	
<p><b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b></p>		
<p><b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) or your organisational lead e.g. Exec lead or Non-Exec/Clinical Lead</b> (List of Council Portfolio holders can be found at this link: <a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=130">https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=130</a>)</p> <p>Kirstie Hirst-Knight, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education</p> <p>Tanya Miles, Executive Director People</p>		
<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>1. Ofsted CQC Shropshire Area SEND Inspection Report Feb 2023 - <a href="https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/50207192">50207192</a> (<a href="https://www.ofsted.gov.uk">ofsted.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>2. SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) <a href="#">SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)   Shropshire Council</a></p> <p>3. SEND APP Progress Update to SEND Partnership Board (September 2023) - to follow and be shared during the HWBB presentation.</p>		

