

Children's Continuous Improvement Board

Report Title: SEND Written Statement of Action – update on progress

Agenda item:

Prepared By:	Director of Children's Services, Nancy Meehan and the Chief Nursing Officer, Darryn Allcorn.	Contributors:	
Partner organisation:	As a Local Area Written Statement of Action we are working with our partners from Health, Education, Schools (and other educational settings), Community Groups, SEND Family Voice Torbay and other Parent and Family groups to implement the Written Statement of Action.		
Date Prepared:	29 th July 2022	Date of Meeting:	

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to give members an update on the progress of the implementation of the Torbay SEND Written Statement of Action. The Written Statement was approved on first submission by Ofsted on 4th May 2022.

Since then, 51 actions out of a total of 92 have been started across 18 different Focus Areas to date. Currently over 94% of actions are 'On track' or 'Completed', with only three actions being 'Not on track'. Of these three actions each of them is due to complete in August (a one-month delay).

2. Summary

Over the course of the last three months Working Groups have been set up to work in an entirely different way on our SEND improvement journey. The Working Groups set up have consisted of members from across all our Local Area, most importantly with parent and family representation on each group. Children and Young people have also been drawn into the discussions held and have played a key role in expressing their ideas and feedback towards the areas we have reviewed. A key example of this has been where a group of young people across schools and community organisations have identified the "Values Led Behaviours" they would want; these were then further curated by a group of young people at the 'Imagine This!' partnership who have defined our final values to be put into our Partnership Pledge. We are ensuring that all the improvement work has children, young people and their families at its core.

In these first three months of implementation each Working Group have reviewed several key areas in our current SEND system including:

- Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Our Joint Commissioning
- Our Culture
- Our SEND Strategy
- Our Graduated Response
- Our Quality Assurance Methods
- Our methods for communicating with families
- Our Education, Health and Care Plan procedures

These reviews have included surveys, workshops, scrutinies and discussions about what is working well and what is needed to improve. All members from the working groups have collaborated on this work with several task and finish groups also reviewing other Local Area systems and strategies

so we can be assured our new systems select all the best practice available.

We have made significant progress on re-defining our culture. Our Partnership pledge and Public Statement of Commitment marks the beginning of a new way of working together for SEND in Torbay. We have recently held a "Coproduction Workshop", which endeavored to produce a Coproduction Charter. This charter will be used across the whole Local Area to ensure we are working collaboratively with our Young People and their Families to make positive changes. At the SEND Strategic Board, we have also heard from Lead Officers who have reviewed how we represent the Voice of the Child, embed families' Lived Experiences in our systems and move towards a "Tell It Once" approach. There have also been significant reviews into our workforce development, with a workforce development plan being submitted at our August Board.

The members of Working Groups have also been collaborating to produce new visions and plans for:

- the SEND Joint Commissioning
- the JSNA
- the Graduated Response
- the SEND Strategy

The Working Groups will continue to collaborate to write these new strategies over the course of the next six months.

3. Recommendations

On 29 March 2022 the Government published its green paper on the review and reform of SEND. The key elements of the Green Paper include greater emphasis on inclusion in mainstream schools (and a requirement for councils to publish inclusion plans), early intervention and greater clarity on responsibilities across health, children and adult social care, education and skills. More recently the new Inspection framework for school inspections as well as an Ofsted consultation on Local Area SEND Inspections (due to commence in January 2023) also places coproduction and collaboration with families, early intervention and inclusion at its core. We are ensuring that these key themes are also central in our work towards the SEND improvements in the Written Statement.

Despite our progress so far culture change remains a key challenge. We must continue to ensure that wider processes across all organisations can make changes to systems to ensure collaboration and coproduction can happen fluidly, both with our Local Area partners and with our Children, Young People and their Families. To mitigate these challenges, we have created a Project Board to foster collaboration across partner agencies. A recent appointment of a Participation Officer in Children's Services will also enable us to involve and include our Young People to co-produce the changes across our system. Our Communications Plan, due to be approved at Board on the 22nd of August, should also ensure that we are able to broadcast the innovations and improvements to our Local Community.