

Title: Key priorities relating to the Special Educational Need and Disability Reforms
Wards Affected: All Torbay
To: Health and Wellbeing Board **On:** 17 December 2014
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on actions following the report submitted to the Health & Wellbeing Board on 17 July 2014.
- 1.2 To provide an update on the current priorities of the Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) reforms work.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the SEND Reforms Operational Leads group reports to the Partnership for Families Strategic Group.

3. Supporting Information

- 3.1 The SEND reforms went live on Sept 1 2014. The conversion of statements to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has already started with a schedule published and available on the SEND web pages. The conversion of statements to EHCPs must be completed by 2018.
- 3.2 The Torbay EHCP has been ratified by the Department for Education with the Personal Budget's section used as an exemplar for authorities.
- 3.3 The Torbay Local Offer is published and available to view at www.torbaydirectory.com/family. This will continue to develop over the next 12 months as the SEND team work with children, young people and families to ensure that all relevant services are included. There will be a survey for both families and professionals in February (6 months from 'go live') to capture feedback about the format and content of the Local Offer with the aim of providing evidence to guide further improvements. Comments on the Local Offer must be gathered and published and these will be made available in September 2015 (1 year after 'go live'). Comments on the Local Offer itself are being gathered by the Family Information Service.

- 3.4 Service users are being directed from the Local Offer website to the Healthwatch Torbay website in order to leave feedback on services. As a 3 month pilot, Healthwatch will provide the SEND Operational Leads with management information based on the feedback received. This information will be used to help identify the strengths and weaknesses of services for children, young people with SEND and their families, within Torbay.
- 3.5 Social media will be used to capture the views of children, young people and their families. The Parent Participation Forum will be managing a page to gather feedback from individuals and existing groups.
- 3.6 Two groups are under consideration as a forum for evaluating service user feedback and drafting recommendations to inform commissioning: Children & Young People Committee (where Healthwatch is an elected board member) and/or the Community Health and Wellbeing Forum (managed by Healthwatch).
- 3.7 The SEND Reforms Steering group met for the last time on 9 October 2014. This group will be replaced by a SEND Operational Leads group who will meet twice a term to manage SEND operational issues. This group includes decision makers from SEN, Children's Social Care, Adult's Services, Clinical Commissioning and Clinical Health. This group, which meets for the first time on 11th December 2014, will report to the Partnership for Families Strategic Group.
- 3.8 The SEND Operational Leads group will initially prioritise improving links between Children and Adult's, including transitional issues. This group will also be responsible for ensuring that joint commissioning of services considers and reflects the views gathered (see points 3.2, 3.3)
- 3.9 The Parent Partnership Service has been relaunched as SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Information, Advice & Support Service). The service, which is funded by the Department for Education and is overseen by the Council For Disabled Children, provides independent and impartial information, advice and support for children and young people with SEND, and their parents/carers. The new service is a collaborative working agreement between Torbay Community Development Trust and the Parent Participation Forum.

Appendices

- SEND Reforms Torbay – Oct 14 – quarterly update

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

- Special Educational Needs & Disability Code of Practice 0-25 years