

WSOA (N)**Draft Note of Standard WSoA Review Meeting**

Local Area:	Torbay
Date:	25 th January 2023
Venue:	Town Hall Torquay

Present:

Emma Brown	DfE (Chair)
Heather Campbell	DfE Regional Lead for SEND Improvement
Claire Gallagher	DfE Case Lead
Keith Thompson	SEND South West Professional Adviser (DfE)
Mark Tucker	SEND Adviser (NHSE) for the South West
Gemma Blackmore	SEND Manager, NHSE
Anne-Marie Bond	Chief Executive, Torbay
Nancy Meehan	Director of Children's Services
Darryn Allcorn	Chief Nursing Officer, for the ICB
Lincoln Sergeant	Director, Public Health
Sharon O'Reilly	Deputy Director of Adult Services, Torbay Council
Becky Thompson	Divisional Director for Safeguarding
Rachael Williams	Divisional Director for Education, Learning and Skills
Beverley Mack	Children's Alliance Director, Children and Family Health Devon
Graham Pirt	Consultant Project Lead, WSOA
Matt Gifford	Business and Performance Manager for CS, Torbay
Hannah Pugliese,	Head of Women & Children's Commissioning
Rebecca Box	Representative SEND Family Voice Torbay
Sam Hadjiantoni	PA to DCS
Stuart Heron	Headteacher of Mayfield School
Rachel Setter	Head of Learning Academy, Torbay Council
Hannah Spencer	Senior SEND Officer, Torbay
Kelly Givens	SENDIAS
Kaye Spencer	Head of Policy and Performance, Torbay

Update on any Actions jointly agreed at the end of the last meeting

During the meeting the follow-points and actions from the previous monitoring meeting were referenced during the presentation, in the supporting documentation or discussions.

Note detailed pre-meeting Information provided by Torbay:

- WSOA Monitoring Report
- Slide pack/Dashboard

General update on progress or areas of significant impact

The development of the **governance arrangements** (see p5 of the Monitoring Report) for overseeing the WSoA (and SEND improvements in general) was elaborated, with particular reference to ‘shifting culture’ and accountability across the local area. Key outputs over the past 3-4 months were also noted (see p6 of the Monitoring Report). The **growing network of parent carers engaging with the send improvement agenda** in Torbay was noted. There is a desire for more dialogue between parent carers and professionals to relay the real-life experiences of families and for tangible changes in SEND services to be made in the short-term (see p3 of the Monitoring Report). In terms of coproduction activity, the SEND strategy was highlighted.

The **view of education leaders** is that since the inspection there has been growing levels of collaboration and coproduction not previously evident in Torbay (see p4 of the Monitoring Report). The embedding of the Graduated Response across the key agencies was cited as an example.

The **spectrum of inclusivity** across schools in Torbay was discussed along with the support provided locally.

Follow-up:

- Further examples of coproduction activity.
- Multi-agency collaboration with educational institutions to prevent the suspension and exclusion of CYP with SEND (with and without EHCPs).
- Evaluating cultural change in Torbay – evidence of change and views of SEND leaders.

WSoA Actions/timescale check

Are there any actions behind schedule?	AP quality standards and AP framework – running two months behind (Nov and Jan deadlines)
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Action	Reason	Mitigation/remedial action
4E.1 & 4E.2	When reviewed it became apparent that a larger piece of work was needed to review and confirm the quality standards before the framework (informed by the new standards) could be created.	This work has been rescoped and is planned for a completion in March 23.

Follow-up:

- Check progress – confirmation of quality standards and completion of framework.

Support received in this reporting period (see p8 Monitoring Report)

Follow-up:

- Summary of work undertaken with SLIP in the past quarter.

Progress on the WSoA Strands

ASW 1	The lack of a suitably ambitious SEND strategy based on robust self-evaluation, and open co-production, and with the buy-in of all
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	services across education, health and care and that includes measurable criteria for success.
See slides 25-28 and p12-13 of monitoring report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND Strategy has been co-produced. 	
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the SEND Strategic and CC Improvement Board will monitor the progress against the 5 priorities, address barriers and evaluate impact in terms of outcomes for CYP and the lived experience of their families. Attendance levels, suspensions and exclusions of CYP with SEND – what is the latest data telling us? 	
Area 2	The deep cultural issues leading to weak co-production and the inability of children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers to be equal partners in strategic and local decision-making.
See slides 29-32 and p14-15 of monitoring report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Pledge to be launched. Participation and co-production events and other methods being used. Alignment of Parent Carer Panels with Family Hubs. Draft workforce development plan. 	
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of a cultural change – what are the current dimensions for improvement identified by SEND leaders? Local Offer – progress in improving communication routes to provide the information needed by CYP, their families and professionals – and to receive their feedback. Roll-out of the workforce development plan. 	
Area 3	The lack of joint working between services, which prevents area leaders working collaboratively to secure more consistent outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.
See slides 33-36 and p16 of monitoring report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working together becoming the new normal Recognised to be a cross-cutting theme Launch of the 'new way of working' in February 	
<i>Follow up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that all SEND staff, including SENCOs, understand and are committed to the new way of working. Evidence that parents are reporting a change following interactions with frontline services and the SEND team. 	
Area 4	The variability in the implementation of the graduated response, leading to slow identification, high levels of exclusion, some poor inclusive practices, and inequitable access and experience of the system across education, health and care.
See slides 37-40 and p17-18 of monitoring report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilots underway Early signs of a reduction in requests for EHCNAs Impact on suspensions and exclusions not yet evident 	

<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of request for EHCNAs. • Responsiveness and expertise of specialist services – are they helping educational institutions identify and address the difficulties children have with learning? 	
ASW 5	The poor range of opportunities and choice for children and young people with SEND when they reach 16 or transition to adulthood.
<p>See slides 11-15 and p19-20 of monitoring report: Comprehensive and detailed account of work underway in Torbay to make improvements in this area, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough analysis provided indicating improvement in post-16 metrics. • Post-14 work onwards reported to be well supported by all agencies. • The importance of hearing the voice of older children and young people noted. • Arrangements to re-engage young people NEET back into in education through the EHCP annual review process was explained. • Grant received to support internship work 	
<i>Follow -up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from, or a case study of, a young person who has benefitted from the new arrangements in Torbay. • Destination data for YP with EHCPs and those previously at SEN Support. 	
ASW 6	The wide variances in the quality of EHC plans caused by weaknesses in joint working, fair access and the timeliness of assessments.
<p>See slides 15- 20 and p21-22 of monitoring report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End to end review of SEND processes has been completed • CYP/Parent contributions being captured as part of the QA arrangements for EHCPs • Base line audit currently underway in volving SLIP • Outcome of QA process to inform workforce development • DSCO and SEND advice line officers to be appointed • Decline in the timeliness of new EHCPs but improvement in finalizing annual reviews 	
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeliness of advice from <i>all</i> advice-givers and actions to correct performance where necessary, noting statutory requirements. • Size of 'backlog' in issuing EHCPs (those not finalised within 30 weeks & 52 weeks). • Workforce improvement priorities arising from QA activities. • FTT outcomes – have any commented on the quality of the EHCPs in question. • Ensuring special educational provision arrangements – SEND leaders addressing barriers. 	
Area 7	Poor joint commissioning arrangements that limit leaders' ability to meet area needs, improve outcomes and achieve cost-efficiencies.
<p>See slides 21- 25 and p9-11of monitoring report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSNA review focused on Torbay has established a useful contextual data and helped identify areas for improvement and future priorities • Joint Commissioning priorities established – alignment with DSG management plan and Safety Valve proposals established 	
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in taking forward jointly commissioned activity. 	

Area 8	The lack of impact and of resilience to sustain improvement of recent initiatives due to low capacity in area teams.
No slide provided – see p4 of Monitoring Report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in capacity • Issues with recruitment and retention 	
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How HR sections within the different agencies are working with service areas to address recruitment and retention issues. What are exit interviews revealing? • How are shortages of specialist and support staff being communicated to service - users? 	

Agreed actions/support following this meeting		
Action	Who	When
No additional actions were identified.		
Date and venue of next meeting		
Next monitoring meeting - date, time and venue tbc		
Conclusion and summary information		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, the local area is beginning to make tangible progress across the eight areas of significant weakness. SEND leaders are committed to making the necessary changes to improve SEND services. • Governance arrangements and collaboration across the local area have strengthened further. • Key stakeholders remain fully engaged with changing the SEND system and culture in Torbay. • The PCF is a full strategic partner, with coproduction becoming central to the new way of working in Torbay. • As a whole, the local partnership is aware of the pace of change required to fully implement the WSoA and address the areas of significant weakness identified by Ofsted/CQC. • As with many local areas at the current time, recruitment and retention of specialist and support staff pose significant risks to maintaining progress. 		