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Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel SEND Improvement update

16th June 2020

WCF Change Programme SEND Improvement Plan

Key Concerns:
1. Safeguarding concerns regarding long term part-time timetables, being removed from roll and tracking of CYP from London boroughs housed locally
2. CCG's lack of strategic leadership implementing SEND reforms
3. Poor quality of action plan for the SEND Strategy
4. Lack of joint commissioning arrangements

5. Variation in skills and commitment of mainstream schools to provide effective support for CYP with SEND
6. Lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of CYP
7. Fragile relationships with parents and carers and lack of meaningful engagement and co-production and collaboration
8. Poor quality of EHC Plans including limited contributions from health and social care and the processes to check and review the quality of EHC Plans

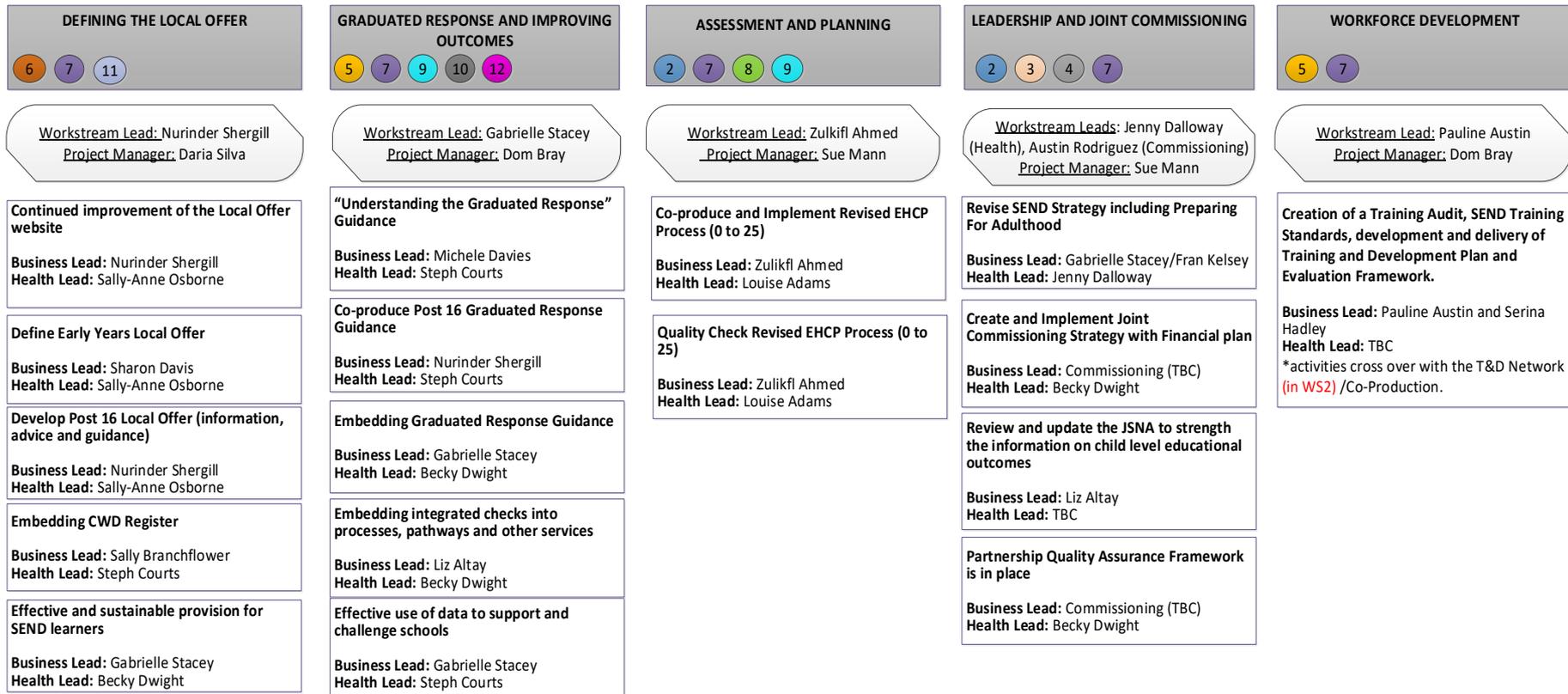
9. Lack of systems to track outcomes for SEND CYP special schools, post 16, NEET and youth offenders effectively
10. Disproportionate numbers of SEND CYP who have been permanently excluded from school
11. Quality of the Local Offer
12. Academic outcomes, behaviours and attendance of SEN CYP

SEND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Improvement and Business Sponsors: Sarah Wilkins, Mari Gay

Change Manager: Rachel Kiernan

Senior Project Manager: Emily Morrall



Programme Level

P.1 SEND Improvement Safeguarding

Business Lead: Gabrielle Stacey/Ellen Footman
Programme Support: Kirsten Forbes

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P.2 SEND Improvement Communication Strategy and Plan

Business Lead: Gary Morgan/Alan Smith
Programme Support: Kirsten Forbes

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P.3 SEND Improvement Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan

Business Lead: Charlie Dickens /Sally Keane /Michele Davies
Programme Support: Kirsten Forbes

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P.4 SEND Data and feedback informs the Improvement Journey

Business Lead: Gabrielle Stacey/Matthew Norton
Programme Support: Kirsten Forbes

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Key Concerns		Workstream
1	The safeguarding concerns around: children and young people from London boroughs who are housed locally; the use of long-term part-time timetables; children taken off roll and missing education	Safeguarding
2	The CCG's lack of strategic leadership in implementing the SEND reforms	Workstream 4
3	The current poor quality of the action plan required to implement the new SEND strategy	Workstream 4
4	The lack of joint commissioning arrangements	Workstream 4
5	The variation in the skills and commitment of some mainstream schools to provide effective support for children who have SEN and/or disabilities	Workstream 2
		Workstream 5
6	The lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of children and young people	Workstream 1
7	The fragile relationships with parents and carers and the lack of meaningful engagement and co-production and collaboration	Workstream 2
		Workstream 3
		Engagement
8	The poor quality of EHC plans including the limited contributions from health and social care and the processes to check and review the quality of EHC plans	Workstream 3
9	The lack of systems to track outcomes for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities in special schools, post-16 provision, young people who are NEET and youth offenders effectively	Workstream 2
10	The disproportionate numbers of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities who have been permanently excluded from school	Workstream 2
11	The quality of the local offer	Workstream 1
12	Academic outcomes, behaviour and attendance of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities	Workstream 1

DEFINING THE LOCAL OFFER

Continued improvement of the Local Offer website

Changes in response to Covid-19

Improvement work is continuing at a slower pace, with a focus being on ensuring up to date information is available on SEND support during the Covid-19 pandemic and the latest Government advice

Impact of Changes

Timeline of planned activity has been revised as initially agreed deadlines were out of date.
"You said we did" report due in April will be delivered in June, in line with DfE relaxing the timescale.
The Local Offer Review document will now start planned roll out over summer.

Define Early Years Local Offer

Changes in response to Covid-19

This work is still paused due to business lead being redeployed to Covid-19 response.

Impact of Changes

Timescales will slip and be replanned once capacity is known

Develop Post 16 Local Offer

Changes in response to Covid-19

Improvement work is continuing at slower pace, as many of the key staff are involved in Covid-19 response.

Impact of Changes

Timescales will slip and will need to be replanned as capacity of key workers becomes available.
New SEND Post 16 TM is going to take the lead on this area providing needed capacity.

DEFINING THE LOCAL OFFER

Embedding CWD Register

Changes in response to Covid-19

Work around CWD register continuing at slower pace due to staff being redeployed to support COVID-19 response.

Impact of Changes

New timeline established in May 2020:

- Testing of revised register will take place from mid May to 10 June 2020.
- Stakeholder engagement analysis will be produced by 01 June 2020 to enhance comms campaign.
- Comms campaign will be in place by 30 June 2020.
- Launch is planned for July 2020, and exact date is yet to be confirmed.

Effective and sustainable provision for SEND learners

Changes in response to Covid-19

Medical Education Team review– work on MET continued at a slower pace in April 2020 due to staff being redeployed to COVID-19 response.

Mainstream Autism Bases review – The start of this review has been delayed slightly. Planning work has commenced in May 2020 and is continuing.

Impact of Changes

MET report due to go to Cabinet on 25 June

Due to disruption caused by the pandemic the report will not be able to outline recommendations yet but update on current status

MAB review work has first steering group on 8 June 2020 to develop an action plan to increase capacity in MAB

GRADUATED RESPONSE AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES

“Understanding the Graduated Response” Guidance

Changes in response to Covid-19

Continuing at slower pace.
Final amends made to the Guidance on 14 May 2020 by the Working Group. Final version completed by Design and Print 21 May 2020 and to be issued for sign off.

Impact of Changes

Schools and settings remain closed, so currently reviewing the best approach and time to launch and promote the new parent/carer friendly guidance.

Co-produce “Post 16 Graduated Response” Guidance

Changes in response to Covid-19

Continuing at slower pace due to response to COVID-19

Impact of Changes

Timescales have been affected with the aim to further develop and review the initial draft created with the Further Education Leads Working Group on 3 June 2020.

Embedding Graduated Response Guidance

Changes in response to Covid-19

Work is on hold until schools and settings can fully re-open.

Impact of Changes

Responsibility Framework to be launched Autumn 2020.
Guidance for Children with Medical Difficulties – further consultation with health colleagues' Summer 2020.
Launch October 2020.

GRADUATED RESPONSE AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES

Embedding integrated checks into processes, pathways and other services

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Work is continuing at a slower pace as Early Years Settings not fully open and Health being fully embedded in Covid-19 response.	Public Health looking to re-start integrated checks virtually on 1 June 2020 as a pilot scheme. Decision on pilot group still to be made and will run until September 2020 when Early years return.

Effective use of data to support and challenge schools

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
Work is continuing at slower pace or on hold for most of the project due to school closures. School Level Inclusion Profiles had been issued pre Covid-19.	First meeting of School Inclusion Forum held 20 May 2020; established how the group will work when schools return and agreed Terms of Reference.

ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

Co-produce and Implement Revised EHCP Process (0 to 25)

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>This project will be paused during the lockdown phase as it is critical to the success of the outcome that Parent/Carers fully co-produce the EHCP process alongside education, SEND and Health professionals. The pause is in recognition in the limited availability of Parent/Carers and some education and Health staff during lockdown. This will be reviewed as restrictions lift.</p>	<p>Timescales will slip due to the pause. There is potential that if some restrictions lift, work can start at a slower pace. The plan will need to be revised once a start date and approach has been decided.</p>

Quality Check Revised EHCP Process (0 to 25)

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>This project will continue at a slower pace. Whilst the intention is to co-produce the Quality Assurance Framework further with Parent/Carers, a pilot will be launched which is being co-produced with SENDIASS and FIP to test the mechanics of the process before bringing Parent/Carers on board for the final drafting due to restrictions of their time during Lockdown.</p>	<p>Timescales will slip and although the pilot will be launched on 1 June 2020, the dates for full launch will not be able to be planned until restrictions start to lift.</p> <p>The Quality Assurance Framework also won't be as fully co-produced as initially hoped, but Parent/Carers will still have input into the final Framework before the full launch</p>

LEADERSHIP AND JOINT COMMISSIONING

Revise SEND Strategy including Preparing For Adulthood

Changes in response to Covid-19

SEND strategy update had been completed for the OFSTED re-inspection. Any changes are currently on holding pending further decision to progress.

Impact of Changes

Agenda item on Programme Board 21 May will outlined planned approach to SEND Strategy Refresh

Create and Implement Joint Commissioning Strategy with Financial plan

Changes in response to Covid-19

Work on the Joint Commissioning Strategy is Continuing at a slower pace. This work forms part of a larger Joint Commissioning Strategy being formed for all of Children's services. Clear objectives for the work related to SEND will be formed and mapped out.

Impact of Changes

Timescales will be partially informed by other work that that is ongoing and has been delayed. The Joint Commissioning Strategy will be in part informed by the JNSA and the overarching SEND Strategy. Milestones will be captured against the set objectives where possible by the end of May

LEADERSHIP AND JOINT COMMISSIONING

Review and update the JSNA to strength the information on child level educational outcomes

Changes in response to Covid-19

This is being led within Public Health, whose priority is to respond to Covid-19 and to plan recovery. The JSNA has been put on hold during this time to allow the Covid-19 work to be managed

Impact of Changes

The JSNA was nearing a stage of completion prior to Covid-19 response work. The current document will need to be reviewed and a decision taken by Programme Board as to if the version as of now is signed off or will require additional work to include impact of Covid-19. Any additional work will not be able to be started until August at the earliest

Partnership Quality Assurance Framework is in place

Changes in response to Covid-19

The planning of the Partnership Quality Assurance Framework has been delayed due to work on Covid-19 and is progressing at a slower pace than originally planned. The Framework for SEND will be part of a wider Framework across all of Children's Services. However, clear objectives will be set against the SEND development

Impact of Changes

Timescales have moved from the original plan due to Covid-19 work. Milestones will be captured against the set objectives by the end of May

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Creation of a Training Audit, SEND Training Standards, development and delivery of Training and Development Plan and Evaluation Framework

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>Work has been on hold due to Covid-19 response, though Internal and external Training Audit has been completed. However intention is to re-pick up in June with the Learning Needs Analysis of staff being the priority.</p>	<p>Workforce meetings have been set up for June 2020 and will commence planning of the Learning Needs Analysis and to revise timescales.</p>

PROGRAMME LEVEL

SEND Improvement Safeguarding

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>Missing Mondays has broadened remit to include focus on vulnerable learners who are CME and provision that can be made for them during the pandemic</p> <p>Exclusions and AP review work has been delayed as a result of capacity to continue with further information gathering</p>	<p>Extended use of EdLounge for children who fall under 'section 19 regulations for whom educational provision still needs to be made</p> <p>APs have been working effectively with WCF and partners to consider provision during Covid-19. These is strengthening relationships.</p>

SEND Improvement Communication Strategy and Plan

<i>Changes in response to Covid-19</i>	<i>Impact of Changes</i>
<p>SEND communications plan has been put on hold since Covid-19 and the effort is being redirected to support COVID-19 response, ensuring that SEND services have been communicated and support signposted during the pandemic. This has been primarily through social media, website (dedicated covid-19 pages and Local Offer) and regular schools bulletin.</p>	<p>Timescales have slipped and will need to be re-planned for the "meet the team" campaign, Parent/Carer Graduated Response Guidance, Responsibility Framework and the outcome of the Parent/carers survey.</p>

PROGRAMME LEVEL

SEND Improvement Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan

Changes in response to Covid-19

Work with FiP and SENDIASS underway to try to understand how engagement and co-production work can be done differently. At the moment the only possible engagement is with FiP but not wider parents/carers group.

Co-production internal work is being progressed.

Co-production workshops have been cancelled at the moment.

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan, as well as analysis of parent/carers survey are currently paused, due to prioritisation of COVID-19 response and planning of different approaches to engage with parents/carers.

Impact of Changes

Wider parent/carers engagement is unable to be obtained due availability of Parent/Carers, meaning timelines across the programme will be affected where co-production is required.

Planned Co-production event at County Hall during Co-production week w/c 06 July 2020 will no longer take place, but other online presence is to be reviewed.

The engagement workshop will now take place in October 2020

A prioritisation evaluation on the work that requires parent/carers involvement will need to be undertaken when restriction lift.

SEND Data and feedback informs the Improvement Journey

Changes in response to Covid-19

Children and Families Act 2014: The absolute duty to provide Health and Care provision described in EHCPs changed on 1 May 2020 to “reasonable endeavours” and timeframes for EHC needs assessments have also changed to “reasonably practicable” if the delay is due Covid-19. This is also true for annual review timescales and timeframes for SEND and disability tribunals.

Covid-19 work had an impact on the transition to the Liquid Logic reporting system and certain KPIs are not able to be updated at the present time.

Impact of Changes

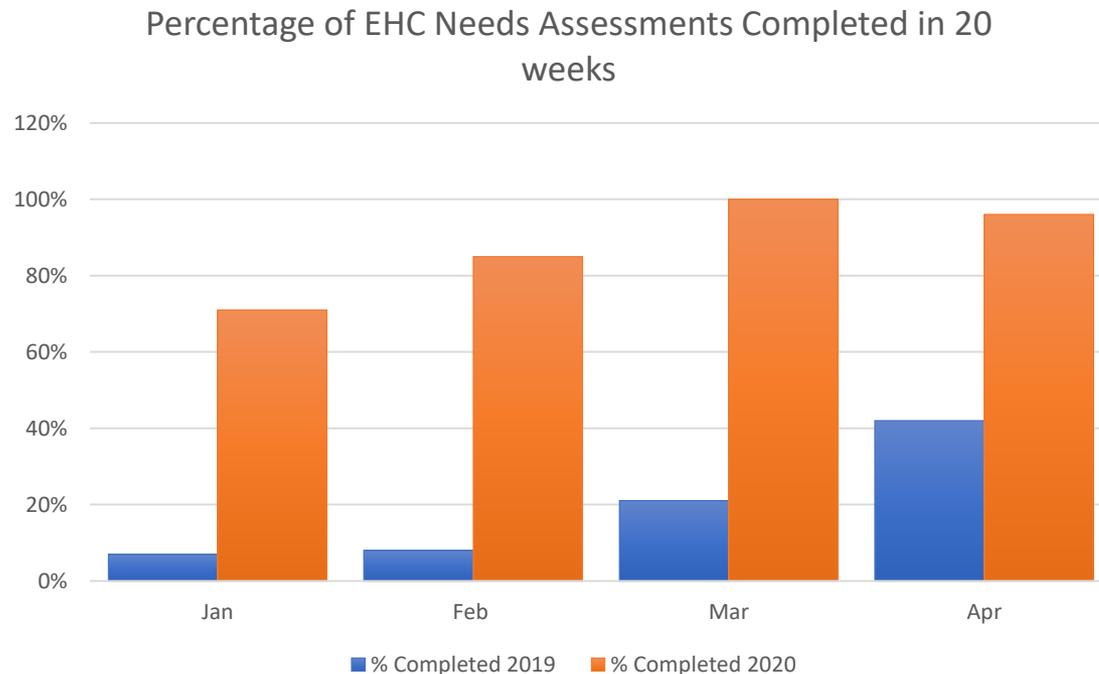
The legislative changes have been put in place to help public bodies cope but SEND services and health are making significant efforts to continue with business as usual in regard to EHC needs assessment, but allow for expectations to be managed

The challenge of making provision in EHCPs during the Covid-19 outbreak may impact on children and young people’s progress against the outcomes in their plans. Risk assessments have been requested for every CYP with an EHCP.

Longer term, relaxed timeframes may increase workload once things return to normal.

Performance during Covid-19: EHC needs assessments

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
% Completed 2020	71%	85%	100%	96%
% Completed without exceptions	73%	88%	100%	98%
% Completed 2019	7%	8%	21%	42%



Performance during Covid-19: EHCP risk assessments

- In line with the DfE requirement we wrote out to all schools and settings for all our children and young people with an EHCP (4,100) to ask for an individual risk assessment for each pupil.
- Essentially the risk assessment asked several questions and considered whether it was safer for education to be made in school or at home.
- 3446 forms have been received
 - 2267 are RAG rated Green
 - 189 no Risk
 - 189 rated as Amber which require further discussions with schools
 - 199 classed as Red.
 - we have referred 34 children to the Family Support Team to contact families and offer support.
- There are 14 settings who have not responded. We are continuing our contact to chase responses.

SEND Strategy

- SEND strategy 2017-2021
 - 5 priorities: person-centred approach, integration and operational delivery, early intervention, preparation for adulthood, workforce development
 - Update on progress on SEND local offer March 2020
 - SEND strategy for 2021 onwards

Forward Planner

- 15 June 2020 – CYP Strategic Partnership
- 16 July 2020 – Workstream Leads Meeting
- 23 July 2020 – SEND Improvement Board

