

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 3 NOVEMBER 2022

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) ACCELERATED PROGRESS PLAN - UPDATE

Summary

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and the Director of All Age Disability (Worcestershire Children First (WCF) have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel following the Department for Education (DfE)/NHS England (NHSE) Review of the SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) that took place on 22 September 2022.

Background

2. In February 2022, the Panel received a report on the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) Special Educational Needs revisit in Worcestershire that had taken place in November 2021. The purpose of the revisit was to decide whether sufficient progress had been made in addressing the twelve areas of weakness as set out in the written statement of action drawn up in response to the findings of the SEND Local Area Inspection in 2018.
3. The November 2021 revisit identified that progress had been made in addressing eight of the significant weaknesses identified at the initial inspection and four significant weakness remained outstanding. An outcome of this revisit inspection was that the Local Area was required by the DfE and NHSE to produce an APP to demonstrate how the remaining areas of weaknesses would be addressed.
4. The APP sought to address the four remaining areas of weakness as follows:
 - The variation in the skills and commitment of some mainstream schools to provide effective support for children who have SEND.
 - The lack of suitable specialist provision to meet the identified needs of children and young people.
 - Fragile relationships with parents and carers and a lack of meaningful engagement and co-production and collaboration.
 - The poor quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans) and limited contributions from health and social care along with the process to check and review the quality of EHC plans.
5. Since the implementation of the APP, the progress of the 4 workstreams have been carefully tracked. A summary of the progress to date was presented to DfE/NHSE colleagues during the review held on September 22nd, 2022 (attached as Appendix 1). This outlined the progress reached at the 6-month review stage.

Purpose of the meeting

6. The Panel is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the information provided in respect of the actions set out in the SEND APP;
- Determine whether any further Scrutiny is required; and
- Provide comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and the Director of All Age Disability

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – WCF Accelerated Progress Plan - 6-month overview.

Contact Point

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agendas and Minutes of Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 8 August 2018, 6 March 2019, 13 November 2019, 16 June 2020 and 23 February 2022.

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)