

# North Somerset SEND Partnership

## SEND Improvement Board Minutes

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 15:00 to 17:00**

### **Present**

Catherine Gibbons (CG), Executive Lead Member for Children's Services & Life-Long Learning & Chair  
Jo Walker (JW), Chief Executive, NSC  
Pip Hesketh (PH), Assistant Director for Education Partnerships, NSC  
Kenton Mee (KM), Chief Executive for North Somerset Parents Carer's Working Together & Parent Carer Forum for North Somerset  
Mark Tucker (MT), SEND Advisor for the South West, NHS England  
Paul Wilson (PW), SEND Programme Manager, NSC Services, Sirona, BNSGG  
Jane Humphreys (JaH), Children's Improvement Advisor within the Local Government Association  
Anthony Webster (AW), SEND Team Manager, North Somerset Council  
Ed Bowen-Roberts (EBR), Headteacher, Baytree  
Emma Bray (EBra), Headteacher Christ Church Primary, representing Primary Headteachers  
Jacqui Scott (JS), Head of Learning & Achievement for Education Partnership  
Keith Thompson, (KT), SEND Professional Advisor for the Southwest, DfE  
Emma Brown, (EBro), Vulnerable Children's Unit, DfE  
Anthony Webster (AW), SEND Manager, NSC  
Lisa Manson (LM), Director of Performance & Delivery, BNSSG, CCG  
Grainne Rogers (GR) on behalf of Lorraine McMullen  
Oliver Guckian (OG), Graduate, NSC  
Rebecca Pinder (RP), Minute Taker, Agilisys Limited

### **Apologies**

Lorraine McMullen (LMc), Interim Deputy Director of Operations for Children's Community

Matt Greenhalgh, Interim Service Improvement Lead for Children's Social Work  
Shane Devlin (SD), Chief Executive for Integrated Care Board for BNSSG  
Sheila Smith (SS), Director of Children's Services, NSC  
Tony Page, Non-Acute Contract Manager for ICB  
Emma Diakou (ED), Head of Business Insight, Policy & Partnerships, NSC  
Becky Hopkins (BH), Assistant Director, Children's, Family Support & Safeguarding  
Mark Hemmings (MH), Transformation Manager with ICB  
Mr J Humphries (JH), Secondary Head Representative, St Katherine's School

## **1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

## **2.0 Minutes of Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

2.1 It was agreed the minutes were an accurate representation of the meeting.

### **2.2 Action Log**

2.3 Completed rows to be hidden on future versions. ACTION. AW updated the Graduated Response document is with Graphics to formalise, there are launch dates in March for schools and AW is speaking at The Autism Fayre on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

2.4 Area 5 – Capture case studies for Incredible Years and bring back to the Board. AW to follow up with Dawn Newton. AW to amend item to show it's coming to the April Board. ACTION.

2.5 Area 4 – AW to work with regional teams to create a peer Q/A forum of good practice with EHC plans. There's a regional meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March which will be on the agenda; AW will be asking if other LA's are willing to be involved and will then set out timescales. AW to mark for update at the April meeting. ACTION.

2.6 Area 1 – PH to update on adoption of SEND strategy across partnership. PH to give an update at today's meeting.

2.7 Permanent and fixed term exclusions. To be shared at the April Board. ACTION.

2.8 Reflect on the KPIs in SIP. JS updated, there's new data every month, it's not ready yet, she will bring an updated analysis to the April Board. ACTION.

2.9 Area 5 – Provide an escalation report to February Board on therapies' commissioning. LM, SS, and the Islington SIP colleagues are meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March to discuss taking forward Joint Commissioning; that covers this and line 147. ACTION. The proposal for Joint Commissioning will be ready for the April Board.

2.10 Area 6 – Add in the target to the dashboard and ongoing development, for example tribunal and mediation cases. AW is looking at the SEND 2 data and will link back

into the dashboard around tribunal and mediation cases; work is ongoing between SEND and Business Intelligence. AW to report at April's Board. ACTION.

- 2.11 SEND Inspection Framework – To check Improvement Notice and whether that sits separately to responses from the DfE/NHSE. EBro is checking this and will feed back as soon as she can; Annual Reviews will be included in the performance data.
- 2.12 Parent/Carers – Provide a report on progress and reach of comms to parents/carers. KM has been sharing data around their reach to the parent/carer community; himself and PH to clarify and bring back to April's Board. ACTION.
- 2.13 Independent School Report – The first visits were done last week and more are booked for April, the full report is likely to be in the May Board with a verbal update in April. ACTION.
- 2.14 Area 5 – Co-production Charter and Joint Commissioning Strategy. Review and provide feedback to AS within 2 weeks. AW is working with Islington on this and there's a commissioning meeting tomorrow. AS is leading.
- 2.15 Change strategy period to start in March 2003 instead of November 2022. LM to raise and progress with AS. ACTION.
- 2.16 NSPCWT Funding – KM met with LM, some funding positions have been agreed for now; another meeting is scheduled with SS on 21<sup>st</sup> March to discuss progress to more of a sustainable approach.
- 2.17 Health Reporting – On today's agenda.

### **3.0 Forward Plan**

- 3.1 This item is an idea of how to plan what comes to the SIB and managing the agenda. JW was supportive of the forward plan and suggested speaking with Helen who has created the forward plan for the Children's Partnership Board; and to speak with health colleagues to check it works for them. JW would like to see performance data on a quarterly basis, and annual review items pitched at the right time. It would be helpful to link certain items to give clarity to report authors about what's expected in advance. JW agreed with JH that it would be helpful to have a report back about the self-assessment and how we are preparing for inspection, a bespoke item to be added to the agenda. ACTION. KT has circulated the Portsmouth slides which gives an overview of the current inspection framework. AW and PH to organise the forward plan and bring to April's Board. ACTION. AW to organise for the quiz to be sent to members in a different format. ACTION.

### **4.0 Improvement Plan**

- 4.1 Area 2  
GR fed back from Lorraine's report presenting EHC Annual Reviews and the Baytree

pilot. EBR will be consulting with his staff and parents for feedback on the pilot and a joint summary will be produced. Discussions took place around professional attendance at Annual Reviews; MT reflected on the new inspection framework, that there will be lots more questions about the review performance of the EHCPs and contribution. Clarity is needed around this item.

- 4.2 GR updated the deep dive on data and dashboard was presented in January. Actions from that were to continue reporting against current KPIs which focused on referral to treat and impact the score card; and to share our monthly highlight report, which will be done. Health have agreed to deep dives as and when needed and have included therapy outcome measures in the SEND score card.
- 4.3 A deep dive is needed on Autism and the pre-diagnostic process and to bring back to SIB for May. ACTION. LM thanked KM for sending survey's, they're a positive way of receiving feedback and responding to changes moving on.
- 4.4 Health have completed their self-assessment across BNSSG; GR to send directly to PH and AW to add to work that's been completed. ACTION. The Board has been asked to a deep dive update on self-assessment at the next meeting, to have a shared understanding of that self-assessment, and any learning from Portsmouth and Cornwall. ACTION.
- 4.5 Area 3 and 5 Updated on what progress looks like for Children and Young People  
JS has put a paper together explaining what progress looks like for Children and Young People, where parents didn't fully understand the reporting processes in schools. Members to email feedback to JS. ACTION. JS will send to KM and publish the document. ACTION. EBR to meet to discuss the impact with JS and share knowledge on processes. ACTION.
- 4.6 Area 4 EHC quality update paper  
AW shared his report. AW will bring back guidance to a future Board from the Regional Group and put that on the Future Plan. ACTION. JW to bring a Safety Valve/Improvement Work report to the April/May Board. PH to send an overview to KM. ACTION.

## **5.0 Feedback from DfE**

- 5.1 A response has been received from the Green Paper Consultation which was published last Thursday and is available to read. KT said it's important to consider it as an Improvement Plan; they will be focusing on developing national standards to enable a better SEND system which will reduce regional variants. There's a focus on early intervention and identification on what provisions should be available in mainstream, including SEND support; if we get that right there will be fewer demands for EHCPs in future, so it's easier for those who need it to get that specialist system.

- 5.2 There's been discussion in the document around the notion of standardising the EHCP template; a clear indication of expansion of free special schools; improving mainstream but also making access to special provisions easier; build on learning from the SB and DBB to help build a financially sustainable SEND system. There's been no changes in law in this parliament, but an expectation there will be new guidance and some modification of the code of practice. There's a balancing act to ensure all stakeholders have been considered in how we move this area forward. MT added there will be clearer lines of responsibility as the plan develops, and ensuring partners are there as equals and for the burden to weigh less on the Local Authority. KT to take the point of insufficient engagement from the DfE and insufficient consultation, with Parish Council and residents back to colleagues. ACTION.
- 5.3 PH didn't feel one paper has been derived from the other; KT to take back to colleagues, control of pricing and quality of provision within the independent sector and the resonance of children's voices not being a strong thread in the paper. ACTION. PH, KM and KT to debate further independent schooling and costings. ACTION.

## **6.0 Any Other Business**

- 6.1 AW to confirm new dates for 17<sup>th</sup> April and May Boards. ACTION.
- 6.2 KM to clarify communication for the Neurodiversity week which starts on 13<sup>th</sup> March and forward details of the Social Communication and Autism Fayre on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. LM to link with the chair of the Strategic Communications Board tomorrow regarding co-ordination of partnership communications. ACTION.
- 6.3 The SEND Improvement Plan to be on the agenda for each Board to discuss as necessary, LM will again start reporting. ACTION.

## **7.0 Date of Next Meeting**

- 7.1 Waiting for meeting to be confirmed for 17<sup>th</sup> April.