

BNSSG CCG Governing Body Meeting

Date: Tuesday 5th March 2019

Time: 1.30pm

Location: The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2QQ

Report title: Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

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Agenda Item: 7.3

1. Purpose

To provide an update regarding:

- Progress following the SEND Local Area Review inspections in South Gloucestershire and North Somerset
- Development for SEND in Bristol

2. Background

The Children and Families Act is designed to improve services for children, young people and families with special educational needs and disabilities (including those with complex health needs) in three main ways:

- Identifying children and young people (up to the age of 25) who have special educational needs and disabilities. This covers the timeliness of identification, and the effective use of information from neonatal and new born screening and early health checks
- Assessing and meeting needs including securing health input to Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans and information about health services through the Local Offer
- Improving outcomes including preparation for being as healthy as possible in adult life

OFSTED / CQC SEND Inspection

Ofsted and the CQC have an inspection framework for SEND to establish how effectively each local area is achieving the intended improvements. Areas are expected to demonstrate a good joined up understanding of how effective they are in meeting the duties, and the aspects of their responsibility which require further development.

Progressing SEND across BNSSG

Our intent is to develop an equitable, optimised approach that supports all children with SEND and their families across our whole population. There are some BNSSG wide developments that we have started but these remain in early stages with a BNSSG wide SEND Board agreed but yet to

commence formally. The most significant progress is linked to each of the local authorities aligned to the current approach to inspection and in support of delivering the LA specific action/ delivery programmes.

3.1 South Gloucestershire Local Area:

Following inspection in November 2017 areas of significant weakness (ASW) were identified by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The following table describes the ASW and CCG progress addressing the issues

Area of Significant Weakness	Improvement actions
Slow Implementation and focus of Senior Leaders	SEND Strategy developed and implemented CCG Exec with BNSSG SEND responsibility identified Director with SEND responsibility for LA identified
Underdeveloped arrangements for joint commissioning, co-production and quality assurance to challenge and support providers to improve outcomes for children and young people	A SEND Joint Commissioning Policy developed A Joint Outcomes Framework: In progress Jointly commissioned overnight short breaks service: now operational
Continued and significant concerns raised by parents at the delays in assessments, lack of communication, timeliness and the ineffective promotion and delivery of the local offer	Autism Spectrum Diagnostic (ASD) pathway improvement project to improve young person and family experience. In progress: Target: April 19 ASD waiting list backlog initiative supported by additional investment from NHS England to enable us to source additional external assessment capacity: In progress Target April BNSSG ASD Service Specification: In progress target May 19
Children and young people having to wait for lengthy periods of time before having their needs assessed by some clinicians and specialist health and social care services	Access times for speech and language therapy, now consistently within 18 weeks of referral Improved access times for Specialist CAMHS OT access times remain outside of expected standards - recovery plan is in place expected to deliver full compliance by December 19 Community paediatric access times have declined – recovery plan has been developing: in approvals with CCHP ICQPM and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
The high, and increasing, rates of exclusions from local schools for pupils with SEND, particularly at secondary level	Local Autism Group, with CCG representation, meeting regularly to develop a strategic response from key stakeholders
Inequality of access to services and variability of experience for children and young people with SEND, particularly in secondary and post-16 provisions	A SEND Education, Health & Care Plan Standard Operating Procedure has been developed to improve quality and timeliness of health input into assessment and plans 0-25 Transition Team developed SEND Outcomes and Steps to Achieving Framework for KS3/4, post 16 and post 19 covering : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education, employment and training • having and maintaining my own place

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing friendships and relationships • planning for good health
Little or no formal training to health services and practitioners on the SEND reforms	Shared framework for training to support being progressed with the Transforming Care Partnership

3.2 North Somerset Local Area:

Following inspection in May 2018 areas of significant weakness (ASW) were identified by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The following table describes the ASW and CCG progress addressing the issues

Area of Significant Weakness	Improvement actions
The lack of strategic direction and planning by senior leaders across the local area to implement the SEND reforms through an effective SEND strategy	SEND Strategy developed planned implementation: July 2019 CCG Director with BNSSG SEND responsibility identified Director with SEND responsibility for LA identified Refreshed SEF in development
The lack of capacity within the local area to implement the SEND reforms effectively	CCG investment of £500k into Specialist CAMHS for Crisis Intervention, IT system and increase in core capacity A Joint Outcomes Framework complete Autism Spectrum Diagnostic (ASD) pathway improvement project to improve young person and family experience. In progress: Target: April 19 ASD waiting list backlog initiative supported by additional investment from NHS England to enable us to source additional external assessment capacity: In progress Target April BNSSG ASD Service Specification: In progress target May 19 CCG co-ordinating development of the CCHP and WAHT pathways to achieve a unified service specification for BNSSG Parent Carers Jointly commissioned overnight short breaks service operational
The lack of a Designated Clinical Officer and Designated Nurse for Children Looked After	Designated Clinical Officer appointed and operational working closely with NSC Education Inclusion Team Designated Nurse for Children Looked After appointed and operational
The variability of EHC plans, including the variable contributions from health and social care, and the processes to check and review the quality of EHC plans	The Education, Health and Care Plan Development Group formed to improve health contribution to plans A SEND EHCP Standard Operating Procedure has been developed to improve quality of health input into assessment and plans
The underdeveloped arrangements for joint commissioning	The Community Children’s Nursing service for North Somerset is contracted with service covering Bristol and South Gloucestershire

	A North Somerset Joint Outcomes Framework in final stages of development: Target May 19
The often fractured relationships with parents and carers, lack of co-production and weak engagement and collaboration	Social Communication and Autism Fayre co-planned with North Somerset Parent Carer Forum, Supportive Parents, Weston Area Health Trust and voluntary organisations has transformed relationships CCG presentation at the Parent Carers Forum AGM
The lack of systems to track outcomes, including exclusions, for children and young people who have SEND across the partnership	A North Somerset SEND Data Dashboard in final stages of development: Target April 19

3.3 Bristol Local Area:

Bristol Local Area took steps to evaluate its effectiveness in SEND practice via a Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review and comprehensive self-evaluation in 2018. These processes identified areas of strength and highlighted the following key areas for development.

Areas Requiring Improvement	Improvement actions
Shared governance	BNSSG SEND Regional Group comprising senior leaders from 3 LAs and CCG provides a system-wide strategic overview CCG Director with BNSSG SEND responsibility identified Director with SEND responsibility for LA identified Updated self-evaluation framework developed Improvement Action Plan in place SEND Partnership Board operational with independent Chair meeting fortnightly Co-produced SEND Vision statement developed
Policies and Procedures	A SEND EHCP Standard Operating Procedure has been developed to improve quality of health input into assessment and plans Comprehensive SEND data dashboard developed
New developments	BNSSG ASD Service Specification in development SENDIAS Service jointly commissioned with BCC from 2019

3. Financial resource implications

With rising populations and children living with increasingly complex needs, there is growing demand for all BNSSG community children’s health services. This is impacting upon access to community paediatrics, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), therapy provision and autism diagnosis.

The new pathway for children’s autism diagnosis currently being developed across BNSSG should enable and ensure capacity and demand for resources are better balanced. There are challenges around access to data. We hope the CCHP programme to develop digital systems will help to provide more robust data in the future that will allow us to make gain insights in how well the new pathway is performing.

4. Legal implications

The single route of redress national trial will expand the powers of the First-tier Tribunal SEND to enable it to make non-binding recommendations on the health and social care aspects of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans alongside the educational aspects. This will reinforce the person-centred nature of the Children and Families Act 2014 by enabling the Tribunal to take a more holistic view of the child or young person's needs.

The national trial began in March 2018 and will run for two years, following which a decision will be made on roll-out. Regulations will set out the new duties on all local authorities and health commissioners. Oversight of the impact of the single route of redress in BNSSG is being provided by the Designated Clinical Officer.

The following link gives more detail regarding the impact of the single route of redress:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/send-national-trial-single-route-redress-latest>

5. Implications for equalities (Black and Other Minority Ethnic/Disability/Age Issues) & health inequalities

The Children and Family Act 2014 is specifically focussed on improving outcomes and experience for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Implementation of the SEND reforms therefore seeks to reduce health inequalities for children and young people with these protected characteristics.

6. Public & Patient Involvement

Bristol: The Parent Carer Forum receives funding to promote and support the involvement of parents of disabled children in designing and reviewing services. They co-constructed the Birth to 25 Collaboration.

South Gloucestershire: The Parent Carer Forum has an equivalent role to Bristol, and has representation on the 0-25 Partnership Board, the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board, and their associated sub-groups.

In **Bristol** and **South Gloucestershire**, the Parent Carer Forums work closely with the young people's involvement workers at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and Barnardo's Helping Young People Engage (HYPE), a participation service that shapes the design, delivery and review of community children's health services.

Extensive engagement with children, young people and their families has taken place in **Bristol** and **South Gloucestershire** to co-produce specifications for the newly commissioned Community Children's Health Partnership (CCHP)

North Somerset: has been developing children and young people’s participation effectively at a number of levels. Participation is well embedded in disabled children's team activities and there is evidence of participation in the commissioning of 14-25 services. Participation of care leavers in holistic health services is challenging. A disabled children and young people's reference group has been set up by the local authority. This group has met to discuss issues such as school support and access to leisure. Participation in Weston Colleges is good. Schools in North Somerset recognise that they need to do more to embed child and young person engagement at a strategic level.

North Somerset has also been developing parent and carer participation effectively at a number of levels. The Parent Carer Forum 'North Somerset Parent Carers – Working Together' has grown and achieved structural stability over the last year. Supportive Parents is well established, enjoys an excellent reputation with families and has an effective and positive relationship with North Somerset providers. Since the introduction of the SEND reforms there has been increased parental participation in strategic SEND planning, both within the Local Authority and health services. The development of 'Parental Reference Groups' has been particularly successful in bringing about positive changes in some areas such as the EHC needs assessment process.

7. Glossary of terms and abbreviations

C&YP	Children & young people
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
LAR	Local Area Review
WSOA	Written Statement of Action
EHCP	Education Health & Care Plan
CCHP	Children’s Community Health Partnership, Sirona (Bristol & South Glos.)
SCCS	Specialist Children’s Community Services, WAHT (North Somerset)
SENDIAS	Special Educational Needs and Disability Information & Advice Support
WAHT	Weston Area Health Trust