

Health & Wellbeing Board

28 March 2019

Ofsted and CQC Local Area SEND Inspection, Written Statement of Action

Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Report by Director of Children's Services

Purpose

To update the Board on progress with the Written Statement of Action

Recommendation:

The Board notes that Ofsted and the CQC have deemed the proposed Written Statement of Action, submitted in February 2019, to be "fit for purpose"

Key Points

- A. At the meeting on 15 November 2018 the Board requested a report on the "Sign off Statement" of the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) be brought to the next meeting.
- B. The proposed WSoA was submitted to Ofsted and the CQC in February 2019.
- C. Ofsted and the CQC wrote to the Director of Children's Services and the Managing Director of the CCG on 6 March 2019, confirming that "*the statement of action is deemed to be fit for purpose in setting out how the local area will tackle the significant areas of weakness identified in the published report letter*".
- D. The WSoA will be published on the Local Offer website.

Context

1. In September 2018 the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) and Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Kingston upon Thames to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.
2. As a result of the findings of the inspection it was determined that a Written Statement of Action was required because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice. The local authority and the area CCG were jointly responsible for submitting the WSoA to Ofsted.
3. The WSoA explains how the local area will tackle the following areas:
 - the overall poor quality and monitoring of EHC plans, including contributions from health professionals
 - the timeliness of leaders ensuring that the annual review process and any subsequent amendments to EHC plans are consistently made in line with the SEN code of practice
 - the strategic leadership and monitoring of the CCG's work in implementing the 2014 reforms

- to ensure that there is a productive and positive relationship between parents and parent representatives, including a parent carer forum.
4. Actions aimed at addressing these four areas are included within the SEND Transformation Plan, included as Annex 1 of the item on the SEND Transformation Plan elsewhere on this agenda.

Proposal and Options

5. The latest version of the WSoA is attached at Annex 1 to this report. The WSoA has been updated to reflect comments made by Ofsted and the CQC in their letter of 6 March.

Consultations

6. Aspects of the WSoA are included in the SEND Transformation Plan. A consultation on the draft SEND Transformation Plan was carried out between 13 December 2018 and the 20 January 2019. Details of the consultation methodology and findings were presented to the Children's and Adults' Care and Education Committee on 7 February 2019 and can be viewed as papers for that Committee at <https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=662&MIId=8584>.

Timescale

7. Ofsted and the CQC will monitor the implementation of the WSoA through a series of monitoring visits undertaken by the DfE and NHS England. Kingston's first monitoring visit has already taken place.
8. Local Areas implementing a WSoA are usually revisited by Ofsted and the CQC within 18 months of their WSoA being accepted as fit for purpose. Kingston's revisit will focus on the progress made, since the original inspection, against each of the actions in the WSoA.
9. Where a local area is considered to have made sufficient progress against its WSoA, monitoring visits from the DfE and NHS England will cease. DfE and NHS England will determine on a case by case basis the next steps for any local areas that have made insufficient progress.

Resource Implications

10. Consideration of resource implications are included within the SEND Transformation Plan, included as Annex 1 of the item on the SEND Transformation Plan elsewhere on this agenda.

Legal Implications

11. None for the purposes of this report.

Risk Assessment

12. The SEND Transformation Plan, included as Annex 1 of the item on the SEND Transformation Plan elsewhere on this agenda, includes risk assessments of proposed actions.

Equalities Analysis

13. An EQIA has been undertaken on the SEND Transformation Plan. This is included as Annex 2 of the item on the SEND Transformation Plan elsewhere on this agenda.

Health Implications

14. The WSoA and the SEND Transformation Plan incorporate proposals with very positive implications for the health of children and young people with SEND. These include the intention to assess needs in a more holistic and regular way, and to plan and deliver support in a more joined up and coordinated fashion across the agencies involved. In addition, the focus on early intervention will mean that in some cases health needs will be considered earlier in the life of the child or young person than previously, and are likely therefore to have escalated less before appropriate intervention is realised.
15. Another aspect of the plan with very positive health implications is the centrality of enhanced therapy provision within the proposals for an improved local offer. The WSoA has been co-produced between AfC and the CCG to address the areas of weakness identified in the SEND inspection. Progress will be monitored through the engagement of the CCG in the delivery of the SEND Transformation Plan and through the Kingston CCG Governing Body.

Environmental & Air Quality Implications

16. No implications arising from the specific recommendations of this report.

Benefits to the Community

17. Implementation of the WSoA will reassure families that local services are making progress in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The monitoring visits will identify where further work is needed, and help to highlight improvements made to SEND services in delivering better outcomes for children and young people.

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Background documents

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- o None other than those referred to in this report