Report title and challenge question(s):
SEND REPORT – UPDATE

Priority report relates to (where applicable):
INFORMATION ITEM

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board, 20th March 2019

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1. Introduction

1.1 What is the ‘wicked issue’?
Preparation for Ofsted/CQC re-visit against a written statement of action (WSoA) issued in 2017.

1.2 What are the existing mechanisms/projects to address this issue?
A SEND improvement programme is in place, with SEND board overseeing a range of work-streams and projects. Re-visit (similar to a re-inspection) is likely to occur in the next few months.

1.3 What more can the partnership do? / What is your ask of the board today?
This is an information report. There is no specific request of the board, other than continued support.

2. Context
In January 2017 the SEND services of LBWF and WFCCG were inspected by Ofsted and CQC. This resulted in the issue of a Written Statement of Action (WsoA) requesting improvement in three keys areas.

LBWF and WFCCG, collectively known as the Local Area, have provided timely and comprehensive reports to Ofsted, DfE and CQC, demonstrating and detailing progress against the areas of improvement. This has been co-ordinated by the SEND board via actions plans and work-streams.

3. Issue
The local area was required to produce and submit a written statement of action to Ofsted that explains how the local area will tackle the following areas of significant weakness:

- The CCG has not ensured that the DMO role has sufficient capacity to address the areas for improvement that have been identified. For example, arrangements for ensuring that medical assessments are carried out for young people aged 19 to 25 years have still to be agreed.

- The CCG do not have an agreed role in reviewing and finalising EHC plans. They are not aware of the proposed health care provision prior to the plan being shared with families. This limits the CCG’s understanding of the services that will need to be commissioned.

- The CCG has not ensured that a robust process is in place for health providers to contribute to EHC plans. Arrangements for practitioners to check the draft plan once completed, or to offer feedback before the plan is finalised, are not in place. As a result, many plans are not of a good enough quality.
4. Identification of gaps, themes and challenges

Through a SEF (self evaluation framework) developed at the time of the inspection, a number of key areas for improvement were identified. Overseen by the SEND board, these have been formalised in to a set of work-streams as part of the improvement programme. Included in this was a specific and direct response to the WSoA, addressing the areas identified by inspectors.

The work-streams are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work stream</th>
<th>Examples of work stream outcomes</th>
<th>Examples of what success looks like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Assessment and Planning</strong></td>
<td>To improve the EHCP process and provide improved guidance to families and practitioners on the 6 step pathway. To evaluate the effectiveness of the process. Communication strategy to complement this.</td>
<td>Children and young people receive consistent timely and high quality plans. To improve the experience of children, young people and stakeholders.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2. Early Identification &amp; intervention</strong></td>
<td>To improve earlier identification of SEND. To provide effective additional support to children/young people and their families where there is no EHCP or formal diagnosis of SEND.</td>
<td>Children’s needs are identified as early as possible. Additional support is available to child/young person to stretch children and support them to reach their milestones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Data and Performance</strong></td>
<td>Data is used to plan and resource an effective offer.</td>
<td>Services will meet the needs of children and young people. Commissioners will be commissioning the right services and meeting need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Health/Therapy</strong></td>
<td>The Health needs of children with SEND are met in an integrated, effective and cost efficient manner. Children and young people with SEND have their health needs met.</td>
<td>Health service staff knowledge and skills will improve. The quality of health contributions to the EHC needs assessment process. There will be a smoother planned transition to adult health services.</td>
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<td><strong>5. Local Offer</strong></td>
<td>The Local Offer is up to date, easy to access and signposts families to the right support.</td>
<td>Increased use of the Local Offer by all key stakeholders.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6. Personal budgets</strong></td>
<td>To fully establish and embed personal budgets within the EHC process</td>
<td>Increased uptake of personal budgets by families</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7. Preparing for Adulthood</strong></td>
<td>Young People with SEND are supported to transition into adulthood. Pathways into adulthood will meet the needs of all young people.</td>
<td>An increased level of confidence and understanding of the offer among young people, parents/carers about pathways into adulthood. There will be more choice of provision.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
8. Quality and Sufficient Education provision

Shared vision and sharing of effective inclusive practice in Waltham Forest education settings. Mapping and gapping of provision to make certain that it is sufficient to meet the needs of all children and young people. Children and young people receive quality support to achieve their outcomes. There is sufficient education provision and expertise within the borough to meet C&YP needs. The area wide partnership provides a sufficient local offer.

9. Workforce development

The C&YP workforce will understand their roles and responsibilities related to SEND and have the right tools & knowledge to support C&YP’s needs. There is clearly defined training offer for the workforce supporting children and young people with SEND.

10. Quality Assurance

Improved quality of EHC plan through a robust QA process. All EHC plans produced to a consistent high quality, with an established QA review process.

The response to WSoA paper is embedded at Appendix (2).

5. Proposed solutions

SEND board oversees the improvement programme and receives reports on each relevant workstream. Risks and issues are monitored and challenged with resultant mitigation or remedial actions put in place.

The SEND board has recently agreed to refresh the SEF by undertaking a series of area-wide multi-agency workshops. These have been organised for March and April. The resultant output will inform a refreshed and development of any revised workstreams within the improvement programme.

6. Appendix

The following documents have been embedded:

(1) WSoA issued by Ofsted/CQC March 2017

![WSOA March 2017](image)

(2) response to WSoA (both CCG & LA)

![WSOA response Feb 2019](image)