

Lancashire SEND Partnership Board Meeting
17 April 2024, 1-3pm
Hybrid meeting

Board Members Present:

Julie Bell, Chair, Head of Cultural Services, Lancashire County Council
Paul Turner, Director of Education, Skills and Culture, Lancashire County Council
Dave Carr, Director of Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health, Lancashire County Council
Cllr Jayne Rear, County Councillor, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Sam Jones, Chair, Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
Neil Willcocks, Service Manager (Learning Disability & Autism), Lancashire County Council
Jennifer Ashton, Manager of the SEND Partnership, Lancashire County Council
Clare Smith, Youth Policy Strategic Lead, Lancashire County Council
Suliman Hussain, Professional Range Youth Worker, Lancashire County Council
Vanessa Wilson, Director of Children, Young People and Maternity, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Elaine Croll, Designated Clinical Officer, Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Maria Hall, Community Paediatrician, Lancashire Teaching Hospital
Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Public Health
Helen Keaveny, SEND Lead for Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
Marie Howarth, Vice Principal, Preston's College, Further Education Representative
Claire Thompson, Headteacher at Moorbrook Special School, Lancashire Special Schools Head Teachers Association Representative
Jane Curl, Headteacher at Carleton St Hilda's CE Primary School, Primary Headteachers in Lancashire representative
Kathy Ashworth, Head of Early Help Service, Lancashire County Council
Louise Anderson, Director of Children's Services, Lancashire County Council
Clive Groves, Designated Social Care Officer, Lancashire County Council

In attendance:

Laura Morris, Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Team manager
Oliver Moores, POWAR representative
Laura Gibney, Designated Clinical Officer, Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust.

Apologies / Absent:

Jacqui Old, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, Lancashire County Council
Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Cllr Cosima Towneley, County Councillor, Cabinet Member for Children and Families.
Aby Hardy, Head of Education Improvement and Interim Head of Inclusion, Lancashire County Council
Gillian Rankin, Steering Group Member, Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
Lesley Anderson-Hadley, Associate Director for SEND & Complexities, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.
Andrea Duerden, MASH Senior Manager, Lancashire County Council
Andy Smith, Head at St Aidan's High School, Secondary Schools Representative
Sue Conron, Head at Duke Street Nursery, Early Years Representative

1. Welcome and Apologies

Julie Bell welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

1.1 Annual Report from POWAR

Suliman Hussain and Oliver Moores presented the annual report from POWAR. POWAR increased their sessions to three evenings a week, covering the north, south and east localities in 2023. POWAR also held their first Take Over Day in August 2023 reviewing the current SEND priorities. Young people presented at the executive extended leadership team meeting (EELT) and have attended strategic participation board meetings, council for disabled children and UCLAN young researchers meetings.

Children and young people with SEND are struggling to attend POWAR participation activity sessions due to lack of suitable transport, needing to be accompanied by a parent or having the financial ability to afford public transport. POWAR are exploring the offer of a digital session to young people unable to attend the sessions in person. Challenges have also included the recruitment of staff, promotion in schools, and child and youth participation, voice and influence not being valued fully. Further work will be undertaken to promote the understanding of participation through case studies and accessible promotional materials, including videos.

POWAR would like to host a consultation event on 19 June and invite children and young people to meet with SEND leaders and discuss the priorities for action moving forward. This will feed into the next Take Over Day planned for October 2024. Priorities for 2024-5 include driving actions to recruit more members to POWAR, to change it's name, reschedule Monday POWAR meetings to enable access to district targeted youth support SEND Groups, to consult and complete project work with young people.

Action 1: POWAR will invite SEND Leaders to the consultation and Take Over Day.

Action 2: POWAR to share information posters with Dr Maria Hall to share in paediatric clinics once the group has been re-branded.

1.2 Impact and effectiveness: because of this meeting CYP will...

Be listened to, understood and supported to have access to information, advice and support they want and need. Services working with children and young people should use children and young people's ideas and views to shape how they work in future.

2. Standing Items

2.1 Minutes From 11 January 2024 Meeting

The minutes were approved by the Board, and will be published on the SEND Partnership website following the meeting.

2.2 Action Tracker

The action tracker was received by all members for review before the meeting. Actions were updated where appropriate, were in progress or added as agenda items. A highlight report was also shared which gave an overview of risks and mitigations taken to date.

Discussed the concerns that there are district variations in data and service provision, for example Family Hubs. Members requested that the data is more specific to enable suitable challenge. Discussed the data dashboard that has been produced internally but is based on published data, so may not be as up to date as it should be. All the reports need to be triangulated, and have narrative behind the data, what has been achieved and how this impacts children and young people. Louise Anderson and Paul Turner are working together on strategic planning based on the data.

Action 3: Jenny Ashton to add the RAG rating to the risk highlight report.

3. SEND Plan Progress

3.1 SEND Plan 2021-2025 Highlight Report

Members received the Highlight Report prior to the meeting.

Priority Group 1: Improving Outcomes

Jenny Ashton read the report on behalf of Aby Hardy, who had been called away from the meeting. An overview of the actions delivered in the last quarter, included increased staffing, review of Alternative Provision, completion of multi-agency audits and the publication of the SEND survey results on the Local Offer. Actions planned in the next quarter include further increase in staffing to meet increased need, and the expansion of special school and SEND units for September 2024. Risks include the impact on timeliness due to increased need for assessment.

Priority Group 2: Communications

Jenny Ashton provided an overview of activity including working together events being held in March, with more planned throughout 2024. Workforce development meetings had been held to help improve confidence and understanding for how practitioners can support a child with SEND, with more planned. The Engagement and Participation protocol had been approved and meetings planned to implement the protocol, in addition to training on the four cornerstone approach to co-production. The Local Offer has attended events and is due to attend more next quarter. Risks include how to improve communication and information sharing with plans to implement a pathway.

Action 4: Discussed LPCF organising further training on the four cornerstone approach to co-production with senior leaders and the SEND Partnership Board members.

Priority Group 3: Improving the SEND journey

Vanessa Wilson provided an update for members regarding the Neurodevelopment Pathway, and the paper presented to the Children's Board to implement pre and post diagnostic support and digitalisation of the referral form. The Autism in Schools project was in its third year and the

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in schools project had been initiated. Levelling up had been agreed by the ICB for special school nursing and continence services. Speech and language drop in sessions were being rolled out across Lancashire and the joint commissioning network meeting was being held in April, to support joint commissioning and agree the strategy.

Members discussed the emotional approach to speech and language therapy and whether there was any support for this. The initial pilot in Hyndburn included different techniques but highlighted the need for higher level support for children with complex needs. Preston and Rossendale were the next areas to implement the drop in sessions, as the roll out is based on need. The Wellcomm training provided a broadening of the approach in schools.

Action 5: Kathy Ashworth agreed to share an overview of the speech and language pilot work carried out in Hyndburn.

Priority Group 4: Preparing for Adulthood

Neil Willcocks presented an overview of the Preparation for Adulthood report, including the opportunities to develop partnership working with schools, the pathway guide and information received from health and the development of PfA data. Currently data is limited to academic attainment but not broader outcomes, although audit of education, health and care plans that focus on preparation for adulthood do help to generate conversations and improve outcomes. A recent peer review has been completed which was positive and shows that supported internships are growing, although there still remains a need for greater awareness with young people, families and employers.

Priority Group 5: Accessible Services

Dave Carr shared an overview of activity for accessible services. There has been an increase in procurement of mental health support, particularly at early help via Barnado's, Spring North, ADHD North West and Kooth. Access to CAMHS remains variable with ELCAS seeing children and young people more quickly. More special school places and SEN units are needed, despite continued expansion. 1300 members have registered for Break Times with 85% of families sharing positive experiences, however, many are not accessing the provision, or registering. Therefore registration will be re-opening. Family Hubs have been launched as a project initially, but have now transitioned to business as usual in all districts to children and family wellbeing services. The SEND directory is up for renewal so will link with the Family Hubs directory. The joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) has been updated and the joint commissioning strategy drafted. Discussed joint working and decision making, with the joint commissioning network meetings being established and the need for clearer routes to discuss individual cases.

Action 6: JSNA update to be added to the next Board agenda.

Action 7: The Working Together Strategy for 2025 onwards, to include a pathway for communicating concerns about individual cases – Sam Jones and Jenny Ashton to pick this up.

3.2 SEND Continuous Improvement Plan and Inspection Framework updates

Paul Turner, Director of Education, Skills and Culture introduced himself to board members. Paul discussed the importance of partnership working and collective direction of travel. SEND inspection wants the partnership to be able to articulate what it is like for a child with SEND living in Lancashire. The partnership self-evaluation form (SEF) has been drafted documenting different perspectives with

the data to back it up. There is an associated action plan that sits under the SEND Plan 2021-2025 but this needs to be reviewed by the partnership and agreed. The Partnership also needs to plan consultations for the next SEND Partnership Strategic Plan 2025 onwards, ensuring constant conversation and review of actions. The SEF will remain iterative, with LPCF work captured, including the working together events, but these all need to align and go back and forth to agree. Discussed how LPCF were invited to all inspection meetings last time, but not this time with co-production being essential. The SEND Partnership needs to own the narrative and journey, with all partners involved and working together. Meetings need to be reviewed as there are many including the SEND Partnership Board, but they also need to hold each other to account.

Action 8: Jenny Ashton to share the SEND Plan 2021-5, the SEF, Continuous Improvement Plan 2023-4 and new Improvement Plan 2024-5 with members to review and provide feedback to sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk by 15 May 2024.

Action 9: Members to re-think and consolidate the Governance Structure.

Action 10: Members to think about how we move forward and also agree a proposed calendar of meetings moving forward.

3.3 DCO Annual Report

Elaine Croll provided an overview of DCO activity in 2023-4, including team changes, with a new DCO in post and another being recruited, with the DCO service transferring to the ICB in July 2024. Elaine shared the key themes for board members to be aware of. These included the under identification of learning disability, which is affecting children and young people not being able to access the right help. DCO's have raised this the NHS England also. Following an audit, DCO's identified that joined up working needed to improve for children in our care, who also had an EHCP, with meetings arranged to make improvements. A mechanism is also required regarding joint procedures for resolving disputes, and managing mediation and appeals, as there is a risk that responses may be delayed impacting earlier opportunities to resolve earlier. There are also concerns that health advices are not being fully utilised in education, health and care needs assessments, with the risk that provision is not being put in plans. Assurance is required, particularly in complex cases that there is joined up working and joint processes. There are concerns that errors in health provision are not identified until the final plan has been issued, which can't be amended until an annual review is held. Discussed the mechanism for parent carers to request an amendment including their right of appeal.

Action 11: A professional dispute resolution process to be agreed by board members which would support improved resolution – Jenny Ashton to pick this up.

Action 12: Clive Groves offered to draft an escalation policy and a tribunal process to be agreed by health and inclusion.

4. Key Topics (Specific topics related to the improvement plan and the SEND Code of Practice)

4.1 Participation Strategy Annual Report

The link to the participation annual report had been shared with members prior to the meeting, however Sway reports are not accessible.

Action 13: Jenny Ashton to share the PDF version of the participation report for members to review and send any comments or questions to clare.smith@lancashire.gov.uk

4.2 SEND Partnership Annual Progress Report

The annual report for the SEND Partnership had been shared with members prior to the meeting. Any questions or comments can be sent to Jenny Ashton at sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk

5. Meeting Governance

5.1 Forward Plan

The forward plan for the meeting due on 17 July 2024 was shared and includes:

- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Action tracker
- Impact and Effectiveness
- Forward Plan
- SEND Plan Reporting
- Review SEND CI Plan, inspection and data dashboard
- SENDIAS Annual Report
- Annual Review of Local Offer Improvements
- Lancashire Parent Carer Annual Report
- JSNA

5.2 Confidentiality and Board Brief

None shared.

6. AOB

None

7. Date and times of future meeting and close

17 July 2024 1 – 3pm County Hall, Preston, Hybrid meeting

Summary of actions:

Action 1: POWAR will invite SEND Leaders to the consultation and Take Over Day.

Action 2: POWAR to share information posters with Dr Maria Hall to share in paediatric clinics once the group has been re-branded.

Action 3: Jenny Ashton to add the RAG rating to the risk highlight report.

Action 4: Discussed and agreed that LPCF would organise further training on the four cornerstone approach to co-production with senior leaders and the SEND Partnership Board members.

Action 5: Kathy Ashworth agreed to share an overview of the speech and language pilot work carried out in Hyndburn.

Action 6: JSNA update to be added to the next Board agenda.

Action 7: The Working Together Strategy for 2025 onwards, to include a pathway for communicating concerns about individual cases – Sam Jones and Jenny Ashton to pick this up in Communication priority group meetings.

Action 8: Jenny Ashton to share the SEND Plan 2021-5, the SEF, Continuous Improvement Plan 2023-4 and new Improvement Plan 2024-5 with members to review and provide feedback to sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk by 15 May 2024.

Action 9: Members to re-think and consolidate the Governance Structure. To be agreed at SEND Partnership Board in July 2024.

Action 10: Members to think about how we move forward and also agree a proposed calendar of meetings moving forward. To be agreed at SEND Partnership Board in July 2024.

Action 11: A professional dispute resolution process to be agreed by board members which would support improved resolution – Jenny Ashton to pick this up.

Action 12: Clive Groves offered to draft an escalation policy and a tribunal process to be agreed by health and inclusion.

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