

Lancashire SEND Partnership Board Meeting

17 July 2024, 1-3pm

Hybrid meeting

Board Members Present:

Jacqui Old, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, Lancashire County Council

Cllr Jayne Rear, County Councillor, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Dave Carr, Director of Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health, Lancashire County Council

Aby Hardy, Head of Education Improvement and Interim Head of Inclusion, Lancashire County Council

Steve Nyakatawa, Interim Head of SEND and Inclusion, Lancashire County Council

Sam Jones, Chair, Lancashire Parent Carer Forum

Clare Smith, Youth Policy Strategic Lead, 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, Associate Clinical Director for Community Neurodevelopmental Paediatrics, Lancashire Teaching Hospital

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

Julie Bell, Head of Cultural Services, Lancashire County Council

Peter Chapman, Interim Associate Director for SEND & Complexities, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Balwinder Kaur, Director of Adults Community Social Care, Lancashire County Council

Jennifer Ashton, Manager of the SEND Partnership, Lancashire County Council

In attendance:

Laura Morris, Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Team manager, Lancashire County Council

Oliver Moores, POWAR representative

Laura Gibney, Designated Clinical Officer, Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust.

Philippa Perks, University of Cumbria Pre-School, Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector representative

Andy Brooke, SEND Enabler, Programme Office, Lancashire County Council

Hannah Blower, Child and Youth Justice Senior Manager, Lancashire County Council

Ruksana Sardar-Akram, Interim Public Health Consultant, Lancashire County Council

Apologies / Absent:

Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (Chair)

Paul Turner, Director of Education, Skills and Culture, Lancashire County Council

Cllr Cosima Towneley, County Councillor, Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

Clive Groves, Designated Social Care Officer, Lancashire County Council

Gillian Rankin, Steering Group Member, Lancashire Parent Carer Forum

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
Neil Willcocks, Service Manager (Learning Disability & Autism), Lancashire County Council
Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Public Health
Helen Keaveny, SEND Lead, Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
Marie Howarth, Vice Principal, Preston's College, Further Education Representative
Suliman Hussain, Professional Range Youth Worker, Lancashire County Council
Emma Ziegloser, Senior Pathway Navigator, Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies

Jacqui Old, Vice Chair, welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

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

The Board discussed the importance of the POWAR summary form being completed by presenters, to provide feedback for how the actions will impact children and young people. Board members agreed that this summary needs greater focus.

The Board identified that priorities, objectives, and key performance indicators should be clear and demonstrate a shared understanding of what we are trying to achieve over the next 12 months.

2. Standing Items

2.1 Minutes From 17 April 2024 Meeting

Minutes received by all members to review prior to the meeting. Approved by Board as written, and will be published on the SEND Partnership website following the meeting.

2.2 Risk Register and Action Tracker

Risk register and action tracker received by all members to review before the meeting. Risk register highlight report with RAG rating gave an overview of risks and mitigations taken to date. Board agreed that the risk summary should align with the priorities for each area. All actions from previous meeting noted as complete, being actioned or added as agenda items.

Action 1: Jenny Ashton will review the risk summary and align to priorities in the SEND Plan 2021-5, and the Improvement Plan 2024-5.

3. SEND Plan Progress

3.1 SEND Plan 2021-2025 Highlight Report

The Quarterly Highlight Report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting for review and to prepare any comment or questions.

Priority Group 1: Improving Outcomes

Aby Hardy, presented an overview of the actions delivered in the last quarter, including recovery plans and increased funding to recruit more SEND workers and managers to improve timeliness of EHC Needs Assessments. Further recruitment is planned for the next quarter, with a Tribunals Team being established, permanent Senior Managers, Team managers and more helpline staff being recruited. Initially, this will have minimal impact, due to the current backlog and sickness. However, a transformational business case is being made for further investment to mitigate this. The national shortage of Educational Psychologists continues to have significant impact on timeliness.

Priority Group 2: Communications

Sam Jones, Chair of Lancashire Parent Carer Forum and lead for the Communications priority shared concerns that she couldn't present the item, as she didn't recognise it as authentic, because she hadn't written it or contributed to it; and that the reports do not adequately track back to priorities or measure impact.

Priority Group 3: Improving the SEND journey

Vanessa Wilson, introduced Peter Chapman as Interim Associate Director for SEND and complexities in the ICB, covering for Lesley Anderson-Hadley. Vanessa provided an update for members regarding the Neurodevelopment Pathway, and the interim case agreed to extend work and implement waiting list initiatives. Stakeholder group has been established and workshop events held to inform the full business case for next year. Task and finish groups are being established to drive forward the work. The Board discussed joined up working, particularly regarding early help and the waiting well pathway. It was asked how inclusive these services are, and that there is a need for a multi-faceted approach to include online as well as in person services. Families have children with differing needs, which impacts the other children. Key performance indicators to measure impact are being developed and links made with parent carers, as family voice is key. The Board discussed how schools find out about the initiatives and where they are, but also that not all areas have access to a local Family Hub or to pathway navigators. It was acknowledged that there are gaps in services but the Family Hub Network includes other early help services such as schools and libraries. Family Support is offered across the whole of the county as an outreach service. Other areas refer to support while you wait as an agreed northwest vision, with action plans for each service area.

Action 2: Kathy Ashworth to link with school representatives to ensure a joined up approach to early help services and Family Hub Networks.

Priority Group 4: Preparing for Adulthood

Neil Willcocks was unable to present the Preparation for Adulthood report but Board members were asked to submit any questions regarding the report to sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk

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. Break Time registrations reopened in May with over 1800 families registering. Take up of places has been lower than expected with the reasons for this being explored in a recent survey. Access to local provision has contributed to this, with a digital offer being explored for children and young people who are neurodivergent to expand reach. Procurement of post 16 Alternative Provision places is reopening in September 2024.

3.2 Review of the updated JSNA and commissioning

The updated JSNA and Joint Commissioning Strategy had been shared with Board members prior to the meeting.

Dave Carr presented an overview of the commissioning cycle and how the assessment of needs in early 2024 identified the priorities that require joint working and what we know about SEND in Lancashire. The JSNA identified recommendations which have informed joint commissioning, and will require regular review by partners and link to how we measure impact and performance. A joint commissioning network has been established across the ICB footprint, with a framework for each area for implementation. Board members were asked if they were in agreement with the priorities, and recommendations. The Board discussed differences between children's and adult's services, in terms of education, employment and training and how access to services needed triangulating. There is more data available to inform commissioning arrangements but the narrative is broader than this. The partnership need to understand what we are going to do regarding differences and how to meet need. The partnership need to ensure there are joint strategic outcomes agreed and how these relate to the SEND Plan 2021-2025. We know that 47% of children have autism and /or social, emotional, and mental health needs, but we need to know what support services are available for them. The strategy needs to reflect that we are doing regarding education, health and care and what is in the Code of Practice. Connections need to be made to help move these priorities forward.

The Board approved the JSNA and Joint Commissioning Strategy with the understanding the both would continue to be developed over time.

Action 3: A Joint Commissioning meeting has been established and they will review and monitor progress of the recommendations moving forward.

3.3 Data dashboard and key performance indicators

A KPI highlight report was shared with Board members prior to the meeting.

Steve Nyakatawa asked the Board if these were the correct key performance indicators, as the Board may have others? Paul Turner is leading the work on the new data dashboard and there are five key areas, education outcomes, experiences regarding timeliness, sufficiency of places, financial sustainability and alternative provision. It is important to demonstrate how we are measuring performance.

Action 4: Board members to email sendpartnership@lancashire.gov.uk with suggestions for future KPI's.

3.4 Review SEND Partnership priorities and governance arrangements

Board members had received the SEND Partnership priorities for 2024-5, the existing and the proposed new governance arrangements prior to the meeting.

Dave Carr asked Board members if they agreed with the priorities for each priority area. The Board suggested that the risks and the KPI's should be aligned to the priorities, but were otherwise agreed.

The purpose of the proposed changes was to simplify governance arrangements so that priority area leads could report delivery activity and progress from working groups and task and finish groups, to the SEND Partnership Executive Group, and then to the SEND Partnership Board. Board meetings

would be held more frequently to ensure progress was being made against the SEND Plan 2021-2025.

Board members agreed with the proposed changes.

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

4.1 SENDIAS Annual Report

The SENDIAS annual report had been shared with members prior to the meeting.

SENDIAS Manager Laura Morris provided an overview of the report. SENDIAS has a team of seven members who provide information, advice and support to children, young people, practitioners and parent carers. There has been a significant increase in need which is impacting on the team, however, 90% families who have been supported provide positive feedback. SENDIAS need more staff commissioning to meet the increased need, and would also like to provide support and training at Family hubs, with increased resource.

5. Meeting Governance

5.1 Forward Plan

The forward plan for the meeting due on 11 October 2024 was shared and includes:

Minutes of the previous meeting

Action tracker

Impact and Effectiveness

Forward Plan

SEND Plan Reporting

Agree draft SEND Plan 2025 and longer term

Agree SEND Board Terms of reference, governance and membership

Update on Neurodevelopmental Pathway

Lancashire Parent Carer Annual Report

Annual Review of Local Offer Improvements

5.2 Confidentiality and Board Brief

None shared.

6. AOB

The Board discussed the SEF and how updates should be gathered as the full document is 29 pages long. This is so that we as a local area partnership can demonstrate what the data is telling us and how well we know ourselves. This is an iterative document that requires regular review and updates to ensure it is a partnership document and not just from the local authority perspective. Partners need to have conversations with their providers and to feed this information into the SEF.

Action 5: Inspection meetings and SEF meetings to include all partners moving forward.

7. Date and times of future meeting and close

11 October 2024 10-12 County Hall, Preston, Hybrid meeting

Summary of actions:

Action 1: Jenny Ashton will review the risk summary and align to priorities in the SEND Plan 2021-5, and the Improvement Plan 2024-5.

Action 2: Kathy Ashworth to link with school representatives to ensure a joined up approach to early help services and Family Hub Networks.

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