

WSOA (N)

Draft Note of Standard WSoA Review Meeting

Local Area:	Torbay
Date:	25 th April 2023
Venue:	Tor Hill House, Torquay
Present	
Heather Campbell	DfE Regional Lead for SEND Improvement
Claire Gallagher	DfE Case Lead
Keith Thompson	SEND South West Professional Adviser (DfE)
Mark Tucker	SEND Adviser (NHSE) for the South West
Anne-Marie Bond	Chief Executive, Torbay
Nancy Meehan	Director of Children's Services
Darryn Allcorn	Chief Nursing Officer, for the ICB
Lincoln Sergeant	Director, Public Health
Jo Williams	Director of Adult Services, Torbay & South Devon NHS FT
Sharon O'Reilly	Deputy Director of Adult Services, Torbay & South Devon NHS FT
Becky Thompson	Divisional Director for Safeguarding
Rachael Williams	Divisional Director for Education, Learning and Skills
Emma O'Connell	Children's Alliance Deputy Director, Children and Family Health Devon
Karen Roofe	Co-Chair SEND Family Voice Torbay
Jude Reed	Member of SEND Family Voice Torbay
Matt Gifford	Business and Performance Manager for CS, Torbay
Hannah Pugliese,	Head of Women & Children's Commissioning
Rebecca Box	Representative SEND Family Voice Torbay
Stuart Heron	Headteacher of Mayfield School
Rachel Setter	Head of Learning Academy, Torbay Council
Hannah Spencer	Senior SEND Officer, Torbay
Hannah Baker	SEND Project Manager WSoA, Torbay Council
Kelly Givens	SENDIAS
General Update	
<p>HC explained the purpose of the monitoring meeting. See slides 1-7 and p2-6 of the monitoring report. During the meeting, follow-up points and actions from the previous monitoring meeting were referenced and discussed during the presentation or had been described in the monitoring report circulated to attendees. A-M B illustrated how the culture across Torbay had shifted positively in respect of services for CYP with SEND and their families. In addition, how actions associated with the WSoA were aligning with the evolving SEND inclusion Plan and reflecting expectations associated with the new SEND area inspection framework. NM presented headlines of improvements over the past three months, together with the new ways of working, which were later described in detail by workstream leads. The SEND Family Voice representatives highlighted the increasing level of co-production activity, with</p>	

the schools' representative emphasising the ongoing journey of collaboration and positive cultural change in Torbay.	
WSoA Actions/timescale check	
Are there any actions behind schedule?	All actions were reported to be on track.
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG rating of actions listed in the WSoA. 	
Support received in this reporting period (see p7 Monitoring Report)	
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of work undertaken with SLIP in the past quarter. 	
Progress on the WSoA Strands	
ASW 1	The lack of a suitably ambitious SEND strategy based on robust self-evaluation, and open co-production, and with the buy-in of all services across education, health and care and that includes measurable criteria for success.
See slide 9 and p11-12 of monitoring report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SEND Strategy has been co-produced but awaiting approval by Cabinet due to May elections. Quality Standards for Alternative Provision have been fully coproduced. Work to be undertaken to improve the local dashboard further. Events to engage parent carers more widely are planned. Implementation of a 'Belonging Strategy'. 	
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspensions and exclusions of CYP with SEND – what is the latest data telling us? Evaluation of the Autism in Schools project – how this is helping to improve outcomes for the CYP concerned. How well do frontline staff understand the objectives of the SEND strategy? Progress implementing new Quality Standards for Alternative Provision. 	
ASW 2	The deep cultural issues leading to weak co-production and the inability of children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers to be equal partners in strategic and local decision-making.
See slide 10 and p13-14 of monitoring report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment of Parent Carer Panels with Family Hubs. Working towards a 'tell it once' approach - published on website in April 2023. Implementation of the workforce development plan. 	
<i>Follow-up:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of the Partnership Pledge. Quantitative qualitative measures of cultural shift in Torbay. Progress updating the current website. 	
ASW 3	The lack of joint working between services, which prevents area leaders working collaboratively to secure more consistent outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.
See slide 11 and p15-16 of monitoring report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint working recognised to be a cross-cutting theme. Launch of the 'new way of working' in February. Auditors in place to gain regular feedback from CYP and their families. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYP Participation projects – to seek views of CYP. • List of ‘quick wins’ have been identified. <p><i>Follow up:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of everyone’s roles and functions across the partnership. • What are the key messages CYP with SEND are giving? • The ‘quick wins’ achieved in the past three months 	
ASW 4	The variability in the implementation of the graduated response (GR), leading to slow identification, high levels of exclusion, some poor inclusive practices, and inequitable access and experience of the system across education, health and care.
<p>See slides 12 and p17-18 of monitoring report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSAs have increased and RTAs are reported as above the national average. • Initiatives underway to have early contact with concerned parent carers and to address the myths around the GR by SEND officers and EPs. • Tribunal appeals have risen - attention is being given to improving mediation arrangements. • Dialogue with LGA regarding learning from peer reviews. <p><i>Follow-up:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on trends for EHCNAs, RTAs and resulting appeals to the FTT. • Arrangements to address the needs of educational institutions in implementing the GR. 	
ASW 5	The poor range of opportunities and choice for children and young people with SEND when they reach 16 or transition to adulthood.
<p>See slides 13-17 and p19-20 of monitoring report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Becoming an Adult</i> delivery board in place. • NEET position improving. • Islington team have been very supportive in making improvements. • Case study presented – showing early engagement to be key. <p><i>Follow -up:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-16 destination data for pupils with SEN support. 	
ASW 6	The wide variances in the quality of EHC plans caused by weaknesses in joint working, fair access and the timeliness of assessments.
<p>See slide 18 and p21-23 of monitoring report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent participation officers in post. • Roll-out of workforce development plan described comprehensively. • QA arrangements reported to be embedded. • SLIP working with EPs on improving advice via reports for the EHCNA process. • Timeliness of advice from EPs and Health remains low (and affecting 20-week performance). <p><i>Follow-up:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative annual 20-week performance for 2023 (to date). • Size of ‘backlog’ in issuing EHCPs (those not finalised within 30 weeks & 52 weeks). • Sufficiency of local specialist provision. 	
ASW 7	Poor joint commissioning arrangements that limit leaders’ ability to meet area needs, improve outcomes and achieve cost-efficiencies.
<p>See slides 8 and p10 of monitoring report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bridging the gap</i> events to work with parent carers to inform JC projects. 	

- Importance of regular communication with wider stakeholder group, e.g. SENCos noted
- Recruitment of keyworkers during May.
- Joint Commissioning priorities established – alignment with DSG management plan and Safety Valve proposals established.
- Better data sharing between Health and Local Authority was reported.

Follow-up:

- Work of keyworkers and their connectivity with others supporting CYP with SEND and their families.
- How joint commissioning projects are beginning (or expected) to impact on the lived experience of CYP with SEND and their families.

ASW 8 The lack of impact and of resilience to sustain improvement of recent initiatives due to low capacity in area teams.

No slide provided – see p3 of the monitoring Report.

- Recruiting and securing staff capacity remains a challenge for all agencies.
- Given the extent of the improvements required to the local SEND system, the capacity of the local PCF to engage in coproduction activities also remains a challenge.
- The local SEND leadership remains strong. The Chief Nurse Officer (DA) is being seconded to Plymouth but will support the induction of the interim replacement.

Follow-up:

- How are shortages of specialist and support staff, and interim arrangements, being communicated to service-users?

Agreed actions/support following this meeting

Action	Who	When
No additional actions were identified.		

Date and venue of next meeting

26th July 2023 and venue tbc

Conclusion and summary information

- The local area continues to make tangible progress across the eight areas of significant weakness. The major challenges and risks relate to the recruitment and retention of key staff.
- Governance arrangements are working well, with a high level of collaboration between agencies and key stakeholders.
- SEND leaders and key stakeholders remain fully engaged in wanting to shift the culture in Torbay and to improve local SEND services.
- The PCF is a full strategic partner, with coproduction becoming central to the new way of working in Torbay.
- As a whole, the local partnership remains aware of the pace of change required to fully implement the WSoA and to address the areas of significant weakness identified by Ofsted/CQC.