



TOWER HAMLETS



North East London
Clinical Commissioning Group

SEND Improvement Journey

Steve Nyakatawa, Director of Education



Local Area Leadership



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- Support for Children and Families with SEND is a priority for Tower Hamlets as a local area. This means that it is a focus for
 - The Council
 - The Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Barts Health
 - The Voluntary Sector
 - The Education Sector
 - GP Care Group
 - and others



Local Area Leadership



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- The Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board has overall responsibility for SEND in the Local Area.
- Has received regular updates both before and after the inspection.
- Is also a priority for Tower Hamlets Together and the Children and Families Executive.



SEND Improvement Board



- Chaired by James Thomas, Director of Children and Culture. It is attended by key partners and focuses on whole system improvement.
- Members include all of the key partners but essentially children and parent reps.
- Will be responsible for our response to the recent inspection.



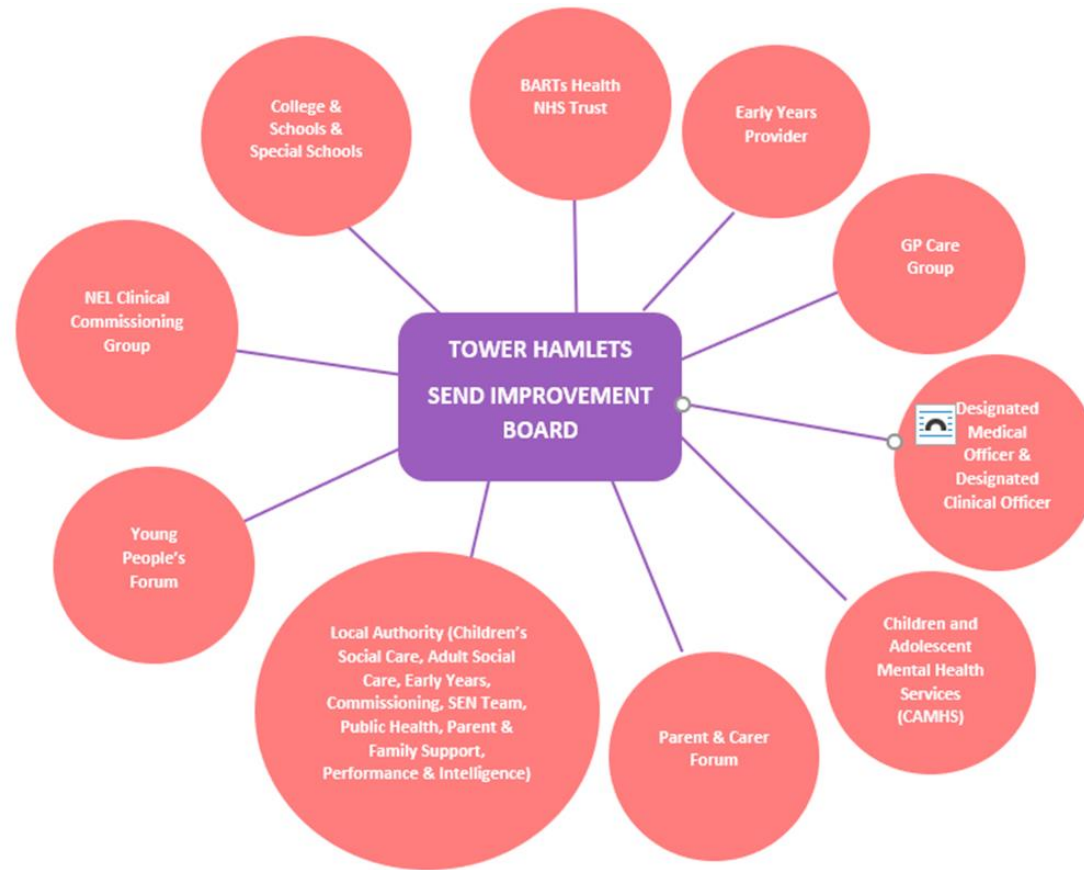
SEND Improvement Board



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Local Area Inspection



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- Took place from the 28th June to the 2nd July 2021
- Undertaken jointly by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- Inspectors met with staff from across the local area who have responsibility for SEND.
- Parent survey and inspectors met with a number of parent groups and young people.
- Inspectors visited a selection of schools and settings.
- Outcome was the Local Area has to produce a Written Statement of Action



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Local Area Inspection – Strengths



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- Pace of improvement has accelerated since 2018 – notable that we have been able to maintain this through the pandemic.
- Children with SEND achieve well at school and young people are supported into employment
- Good support to schools and early years providers for children with SEND.
- Parents and young people are involved in strategic meetings and influence decision making.
- Therapists and mental health professionals measure the effectiveness of their work with individual children and young people.
- Many services are highly regarded including SENDIASS, Behaviour and Attendance and the Sensory Service



Local Area Inspection – Area of Weakness



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- **Quality and oversight of EHC Plans including the annual review process**
- **ASD assessment and diagnosis waiting times**
- **Speech and language provision**
- **Communication between area leaders and parents**
- **Capacity of DMO/DCO**
- **Identification of need in the early years**
- **Transitions for some young people**



Written Statement of Action



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- Senior leaders accept the findings within the inspection letter and have redoubled their commitment to improvement.
- Our existing improvement plan covers most of the weaknesses identified and is reviewed regularly by the SEND Improvement Board to ensure progress is made.
- Written Statement of Action will be drafted to address the areas of significant weakness. Much of this work is already underway and has been for some time.
- We aim to ensure synergy between our ongoing Improvement Plan and the WSoA.
- We welcome external challenge and support, and want to ensure maximum impact from improvement partners.



Written Statement of Action



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- WSoA only covers the 4 areas of significant weakness. Other areas remain within the Improvement Plan.
- Four workstreams
 1. EHCP & Annual Reviews – led by John O’Shea (Head of SEND) and James Dodd (DCO)
 2. Assessment and Diagnosis of ASD – Led by Anthony Harris (Head of Children’s Commissioning), Abdul Quddus (Deputy Head of Early Help) and Jo Conroy (General Manager, Paediatrics)
 3. Speech and Language Therapy – led by Anthony Harris (Head of Children’s Commissioning) and James Dodd (DCO)
 4. Communication between Local Area leaders and parents – led by Steve Nyakatawa (Director of Education)



Written Statement of Action



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- The WSoA has to be submitted by 24th December 2021 to the Department of Education and NHS England who will confirm that it meets the requirements of the inspection letter.
- Will be published on the Local Offer and will be monitored by the SEND Improvement Board.
- Local Area leaders will meet regularly with the DfE and NHSE to update on progress.
- Are likely to be inspected under the new inspection framework, which has not yet been released.



Your thoughts



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We would welcome your feedback on the four areas of weakness and particularly how we can best address these.

