

Lets Talk SEND

Local Area SEND Inspection

Written Statement of Action updates

James Thomas Corporate Director of
Children & Culture

Francesca Cannarella SEND Consultant



Local Area updates



- Staffing changes:
- Lisa Fraser started with Tower Hamlets at the beginning of May and is the new Director of Education replacing Steve Nayakatawa
- Francesca Cannarella started as SEND consultant in March to drive forward the preparation for the next SEND local area inspection under the new OFSTED framework.



National Updates



- Follow up from Green paper consultations March 2022.
'Right Support, Right Place, Right time'
- New OFSTED framework focusing on the lived experience of young people and their families.
- SEND and AP improvement plan March 2023

The improvement plan follows extensive engagement with around 6000 consultation responses and 175 events. It sets out government proposals to improve outcomes for children and young people and to deliver financial stability and equity including the alternative provision sector.



Written Statement of Action updates – four areas



- 1. Poor quality of EHCPs and Annual Reviews
- 2. Lengthy waiting times for the assessment and diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder(ASD)
- 3. Fragmentation in the provision of Speech and Language therapy (SLT), resulting in too many children not receiving the the specialist help and support that they need
- 4. Weaknesses in communication between area leaders and parents leading to misunderstandings. Many families being unaware of services available to them.



Written Statement of Action progress made



- DfE and NHSE continue to monitor progress and in regular meetings have recognised the significant progress made in the timeliness and quality of EHCP plans.
- Increased diagnostic capacity for new ASD pathway.
- Direct commissioning of BARTS Health to deliver on Speech and Language treatment pathway whilst exploring early years interventions.
- Regular engagement with parents at events such as these throughout the year and specific support provided by the SEND service and SENDIASS.



Summary



- Leaders continue to work with all partners, exploring good practice with neighbouring local authorities and networking nationally.
- Leaders hold partners to account on the delivery of services and the quality of provision in schools and the delivery of additional support from health and social care.
- Significant progress has been made in most areas of the WSOA. We will continue to work ambitiously and collaboratively with our stakeholders and partners to further improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets.

