

East Berkshire Multi-Agency Audit

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

Thematic Report

Executive Summary



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The introduction of education, health and care (EHC) plans is a key element of the Children and Families Act 2014. The purpose of an EHC plan is to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN), by providing a framework for well-coordinated person centred assessments and planning effectively to identify and implement the right support. For this to be achieved, robust processes must be established and maintained between the appropriate partners i.e. local authorities, education, care and health commissioners/services.

As well as the special educational needs and special educational provision of the child/young person, the draft EHC plan should also detail:

- The health care provision that has been assessed as reasonably required.
- The social care provision which is being made for the child/young person under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and any other social care provision that has been assessed as reasonably required.

East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in partnership with Slough Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Council, Achieving for Children on behalf of RBWM, the local Parent Forums and Berkshire Health Care Foundation Trust (BHFT) have established a rolling programme of multiagency audits as an effective way of providing assurance, to identify what is going well and to determine any areas of improvements, from a multiagency perspective across Health, Education and Social Care. An important part of the audit is to share learning across the partnerships.

This executive summary provides an overview of evidence from the audit of thirteen cases carried out on 16th March 2018.

Process

A sample of thirteen EHC plans were provided from Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough and Bracknell Forest local authorities and audited using the audit tool that the multi-agency panel had agreed during a planning meeting.

The criterion used to select the plans was (a) the initial EHC plan and (b) to have a health element. The plans were selected at random. Five of the plans were for early years aged children, six were for primary aged children, and two were for secondary school age.

Practitioners from a range of agencies and parents (now known as the 'audit team', see appendices for list of audit team) were tasked with completing the audit tool and commenting on any areas of good practice or areas that needed improvement. At the end of the session the audit team had an initial debrief to discuss any emerging themes.

The multiagency working was one of the most positive aspects of the day. The audit allowed the team to connect with team members and parents from other localities in the same role and professionals across health, education and social care to work collaboratively to further develop ongoing relationships.

Key themes

The audit has highlighted some areas of key strengths which we need to continue to build on and areas for development.

- **There were pockets of good to excellent practice across all of the EHC plans audited.**
- **The coordination of information/evidence from relevant agencies as part of the assessment process was very strong, enabling a good basis for the holistic assessment of the child/young person's needs.**
- **The voice of the child, young person, and/or parent was evident in all of the plans; however this was variable across the plans.**
- **Aspirations were documented in some of the plans.**
- **There was strong evidence of multiagency working across education and Children and Young People Integrated Therapies.**
- **The contribution of specialist health professionals was variable.**
- **The outcomes were specific to the needs to the child/young person, but focused on educational outcomes as opposed to life outcomes.**
- **The majority of the plans were easy to read and follow, but some of the evidence from the appendices had not been captured in the plan therefore impacting on the overall quality of the EHC Plan.**

Recommendations

- **Feedback/presentation to appropriate SEND meetings across East Berkshire.**
- **Workshop to take place to allow learning and sharing of practice in relation to capturing young person's voice, aspirations and outcomes. This will take place after the second audit in September 2018 to allow any additional themes to be incorporated into the workshop.**