

WOSA Steering Board -Chairs report Number 4 February 2019

If this is your first report that you are reading, please can I introduce myself, I am Sarah Bellars, Director of Nursing East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group, I am the chair of the area's WSOA implementation steering board.

In July 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of Education, Social care and Health services within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) local area to judge its effectiveness in implementing the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. As a result of the findings of the inspection, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) determined that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) is required to address eight areas of significant weakness in the local area's practice

The Council and the CCG were jointly responsible for submitting the written statement, which has been produced in conjunction with Parents and Carers in Partnership (PaCiP).

The Written Statement of Action to Ofsted was required to explain how the local area will tackle the following areas of significant weakness:

- tardiness and delay in establishing strategies to implement the reforms effectively
- the lack of leadership capacity across local area services, such as the time given to the role of the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO)
- poor use of management information to secure a robust overview of the local area's effectiveness
- weaknesses in how leaders are held to account across the local area
- the inequality of access to services and variability of experience for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families
- the wide variances in the quality of education, health and care plans caused by weaknesses in the planning and transition processes
- the lack of effective co-production with parents when designing and delivering services and when planning for their individual children's needs
- poor joint commissioning arrangements that limit leader's ability to ensure that there are adequate services to meet local area needs.

The steering board has met monthly since December 2017 with the exception of December 2018 and has overseen the progress of the action plan (WSOA). Some of the recent key achievements include:

- Publication of the Handbook

- Further refinement and simplification of the local offer
- Completion of an initiative to reduce some of the waiting list for ASD assessment

Progress against the action plan has on the whole been good; however some actions are taking longer to deliver due to their complexity. An example of this the continued negotiation of the transparent funding matrix for high needs top-up payments, which has differing implications for schools in the various parts of the system.

Local leaders recognise another challenge is that whilst we are able to demonstrate that we are completing the actions it has been harder to demonstrate the impact in relation to the original areas of weakness identified by OFSTED. This is because the impact has to be experienced by a young person and their family which can only be assessed over a longer period time. This is an area PaCiP despite capacity constraints have maintained positive challenge on in the steering board.

The DFE are monitoring the progress the local area is making and meet quarterly with local leaders, they have been able to see continuous progress over the last year.

We have been advised to expect OFSTED who will review the progress of the local area since September 2017.

The next steering board meeting is being held on 18 March 2019.

If you would like any further information about the work that local area is undertaking including the Terms of reference for the Steering Board and its minutes. Please visit the Local Offer to see the full WSOA, these reports and access a wide range of services. It can be accessed via

<http://directory.rbwm.gov.uk/kb5/rbwm/directory/localoffer.page?familieschannel=3>