

LBR SEND Partnership Board

17 July 2019

SEND Futures Plan 2019/20 to 2021/22

Highlight Report

Programme Director, AfC

1. Introduction

A key development since May's Board has been the decision at the meeting of the Council's Education and Children's Services Board on 3 June to proceed with a consultation on the draft Plan and to reconsider the Plan in the context of the findings of that consultation at their next meeting on 25 July. Progress is already being made in many of the workstreams proposed in the draft Plan and this report provides information on key highlights of that work.

2. Workstream 1: Co-production, Engagement and Participation

- The SEND Futures conference, organised in collaboration with Kingston, took place on 27th June and was attended by over 300 stakeholders including approximately 75 parents and carers and representatives from local early years, school and college providers, as well as from health, social care and the voluntary sector. The conference, structured around the strapline "Listen, Learn, Lead", was co-produced with parents and carers and co-delivered with parents, carers and young people. The day included workshops on topics including future therapy provision, leading a whole school approach to SEN support, transitions to adulthood, developing a culture of co-production (delivered by the Rotherham PCF), making (Kingston and) Richmond disability friendly and inclusive boroughs, improving SEND provision through peer to peer support, supporting girls and women with ADHD and working with children with Autism Spectrum Conditions using SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Support). At time of writing, 85% of respondents to the post conference survey (81) said they were very satisfied or satisfied with the conference.
- Two further meetings of the Parent Panel took place towards the end of June and at the start of July, one during a morning and one during an evening. A total of 11 parents attended. 27 residents are now registered with the Panel. Discussion centred on:
 - Updates on the SEND Partnership Board and the Parent Carer Forum
 - Discussion of structure and content of future meetings, including how this links in the work of the Partnership Board
 - Roles within the Panel in terms of who from the parent / carer community might volunteer to take on organisational and leadership responsibilities of the Panel
 - Representation from the Panel at future meetings of the Partnership Board
 - Who would be interested in volunteering to take part on co-production activity relating to:

- Therapies
- Autism Strategy
- New Free School
- 16-25 years pathways
- Annual Review process
- Next steps re. this being an open or closed group

3. Workstream 2: Joint Commissioning

- Market analysis and the development of a future commissioning strategy continues. This includes a new strategic commissioning lead within AfC.
- Investment bids have also been submitted as part of the budget setting process for 2020/21.
- Good progress is being made with the therapy review to inform the key commissioning decision ahead of the end of existing therapy contracts in March 2020.
- Leadership of this workstream will change when Eamonn Gilbert leaves AfC in July.

4. Workstream 3: Local provision.

- Market warming events for the new free school(s) were held in May and were well attended. The proportion of EHCPs placed in the independent and non maintained special school sectors continues to decrease, and the DfE's latest data release show that Richmond now has a lower proportion of EHCP in placements in the independent and non maintained special school sector than a number of other local boroughs. This is a testament to the hard work of Richmond's local special and mainstream schools and their proactivity and excellence regarding inclusion. A future challenge is to reduce the gap between our most inclusive and least inclusive schools by raising the performance of those who are less inclusive than average.
- The review of therapy provision is making good progress with a workshop help to collect additional input at the SEND Futures conference and two more scheduled before the end of term. There are also now regular meetings between seniors in the Council / AfC and the CCG to make sure this remains on track.
- Post 16 years is subject to a separate item on this agenda.

5. Workstream 4: Early intervention and planning

- Current focus is on transitions to Adults with input from Associate Director for Commissioning, the 14-19 years team and Education Business Partnership.
- Work continues on analysis of early indicators of the impact of the Early Intervention Panel to plan refinements needed for next academic year.
- The peer review of SEND provision amongst secondary schools continues with initial feedback very positive.

6. Workstream 5: Assessment and planning

- All EHCP assessments were completed on time in June making Richmond's Q1 Performance 100% (40/40). This compares to 96.4% (27/28) in Q4 2018/9, and 76.6% in the whole of 2018 (versus 60.1 in England).
- Consideration of resources in the team is ongoing and needs to be seen in the context of an increase in the number of EHCPs over the past twelve months of 10.4% and 14.0% over two years (Jan to Jan). This compares to national increases of 10.7% and 23.2% respectively.

- Mechanisms to collect feedback from parents, carers, children and young people continue to be developed and will be rolled out more fully in the new academic year.

7. Financial summary

2019/20

Richmond is currently projecting spend of £160.189m on DSG funded education services in 2019/20 compared to a grant allocation of £155.727 (including academies). This represents a current projected overspend of £4.462m, including £1.4m for future demand pressures throughout the remainder of the financial year. The future demand figure is based on an expected increase of 120 EHCP's from April 2019 to March 2020. The funding is forecast to be spent as follows (note this excludes £43.643m (Schools Block) and £3.118m (High Needs Block) DSG funding recouped by the ESFA for funding of academies. Richmond's total Dedicated Schools Grant is £155.727m) :

2019/20 DSG Outturn	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m	Future Demand £m	Variance incl Future Demand £m
Schools Block	70.220	70.220	0.000		0.000
Central School Services Block	0.762	0.753	(0.009)		(0.009)
Early Years Block	14.857	14.289	(0.568)		(0.568)
High Needs Block	23.128	26.766	3.639	1.400	5.039
Sub-Total	108.966	112.028	3.062	1.400	4.462
2018/19 Carry forward	(10.955)	0.000	10.955	0	10.955
Total	98.011	112.028	14.017	1.400	15.417