

Update report

1. Introduction

The SEND Transformation Plan was considered by both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children's and Adults Care and Education Committee in January. It was agreed that the updated five year plan will return to both in June. Prior to that, the draft updated plan will be considered by the Parent Consortium on 1st May and this Board on 15th May.

The workforce task and finish group has completed its mapping of the current workforce supporting children and young people with SEND. Although the response rate to the mapping was relatively low, it does provide a clearer picture of current workforce pressures in particular occupational groups. Further work is in progress with individual organisations to better understand the actions that are currently in place to address these issues. The group has agreed two immediate priorities. The first is to develop a coordinated approach to recruitment; there is an immediate opportunity to move this forward in a shared recruitment campaign for therapy staff following the funding investment made by the CCG. The second priority is a review of the core training and development offer for professionals working with children with SEND. This is being taken forward by Achieving for Children's Associate Director for Workforce.

2. Workstream 1: Co-production, engagement and participation (previously Strategy and Governance)



Kingston's new SEND Parent Carer Forum is holding a launch event on Sunday 5th April at Chessington World of Adventures Safari Hotel. Details and booking information can be found in the flyer at the end of this report. Huge thanks are due to the group of parents and carers who have committed their time to make this happen.

The Parent Consortium continues to meet every half term. January's meeting included, in response to requests from parents and carers at November's meeting, a presentation from one of the Council's Physical Activity, Exercise and Sports Development Officers on inclusive sport opportunities. Notes of all Consortium meetings are available here:

<https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/send-consultation-hub-and-resource-bank/send-futures-kingston/kingston-send-parent-consortium>

Members of the workstream are working on the Engagement and Participation Annual Report which is due to be published in April / May 2020 to cover events in the financial year 2019/20.

3. Workstream 2: Commercial thinking / Joint Commissioning

AfC's new Director of Commissioning and Partnerships, Jessica Thom, began work on 2nd March. She will work closely with the CCG's Director of Commissioning and Transformation (Martin Ellis), Public Health and other partners across the SEND system / Local Area. A key priority in this workstream is the agreement of a Joint Commissioning Framework.

Doreen Redwood left the CCG at the end of February and has been replaced as Lead Children's Health Commissioner on an interim basis by Nigel Evason. The aim is to make a permanent appointment to this role with an August / September start. To further embed joint working, and to better facilitate improved joint commissioning between education, health

and care, both the interim and permanent posts have been and will be recruited jointly by the CCG and AfC, and will be jointly accountable to the CCG and AfC's new Director of Commissioning and Partnerships. Day to day line management will be provided by the later.

4. Workstream 3: Local provision

Local places

Considerable progress has been made in the process to appoint the provider for the new special free school due at Moor Lane. An announcement on the successful candidate is due in late spring / early summer. Despite the increase in the number of EHCPs over the past twelve months (11%+), the expenditure on independent school placements looks like it will increase by only 1% in this financial year. This is huge credit to those involved in the expansion of local specialist maintained and academy places, and particularly to those schools who have stepped forward to expand or host new specialist resource provisions, and to our special schools who have expanded their place numbers with such creativity and innovation.

Therapy Review

Considerable progress has been made with securing the health and social care components of the increase in funding required to implement the recommendations of the therapy review. The CCG has agreed to invest, in Kingston, an additional £250,000 in 2020/21 and reached an in principle agreement to increase investment by £450,000 in 2021/22 and £580,000 in 2022/23. There is a commitment from the Council to fund an additional social care occupational therapist from 2020/21 onwards. This is fantastic news for children and young people with SEND in Kingston. In terms of the education element, a budget of £137,000 from the early years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been approved by Schools Forum and the Council for additional therapy support for children under the age of five in 2020/21. Whilst this also great news, it does not address the need to better meet the education needs of those over the age of 5 years.

As part of the recent DSG budget setting process, schools were asked to consider whether they would support setting aside funding from delegated school budgets to meet the additional education funding required to support children and young people over the age of 5 years. It was explained that due to the significant levels of underfunding in the high needs block of the grant, additional money could not be committed to therapies beyond the cost of the statutory provision. Schools Forum considered this proposal at its January meeting and did not approve the therapies funding based on the results of the schools consultation. Schools Forum detailed a number of reasons for this decision. These included discomfort about top slicing the funding from schools delegated budgets, meaning that different schools contribute different amounts; uncertainty about whether additional health money would be made available; uncertainty about the final delegated schools budgets for 2020/21 and beyond; and a strong feeling that the Government should be providing adequate funding from within the high needs block of the grant.

Recent guidance issued by the Department for Education has further narrowed the Council's options as it has been updated to clearly state that the Council is not permitted to subsidise the education budget from its own resources without permission from the Secretary of State. The proposed education budget for next year will therefore not include additional investment in the educational aspects of therapies for children over the age of five. The CCG funding will only be used to support additional growth in the number of plans and their associated health costs. We have a local commitment, outlined in our SEND Transformation Plan, to invest in intervention at the earliest point i.e at SEN Support level, and a lack of therapy provision for these children and young people will certainly impact on this aspiration and probably increase costs at a later stage.

To move this issue forward, the Managing Director of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Director of Children's Services have written to all schools highlighting the importance of reaching a solution on this education funding shortfall and of the intention to investigate the use of medium term service level agreements with schools as an alternative

funding solution. It is hoped that schools will be in a better position to consider this now that school budgets for next year have been agreed and there is more clarity about partner funding.

Transitions to Adult Services

A Transitions Board has been established and held its first meeting. The purpose of the board is to provide a platform for adults' and children's services to come together and make aligned changes to their services to improve outcomes for young people and their families and encourage more effective ways of working. The board is chaired by Stephen Taylor, Director of Adult Social Care and Housing. The board will seek to further develop pathways planning, improve joint commissioning and operations from 14+ years to ensure a smoother transition process, and increase involvement of health during the transition process, particularly for high need service users including the development / clarification of Continuing Healthcare. This is to include investigating the development of the short breaks offer in Kingston for the transitions age group (e.g. development of "Shared Lives" scheme).

Transitions to Adult Services are the subject of the spotlight session at this Board meeting.

5. Workstream 4: Early intervention and planning

A new Associate Director for Pupil Support is joining AfC from the start of April. Sheldon Snashall joins from a multi academy trust and will co-chair this workstream.

Total EHCPs at 2/3/20 stood at 1331. This represents an 11.7% increase in total EHCPs over twelve months. This rate of growth is slightly lower than the growth in calendar year 2019, but may be due to cyclical variations rather than any real change in the rate of increase of levels of need. May's release of national EHCP data for calendar year 2019 is keenly awaited and will provide the opportunity for us to consider Kingston's rate of increase against other LAs.

First 1000 Days

The case for change for the First 1000 days initiative has been approved by the Council's Transformation Board. The case focused on the fact that healthy physical, emotional and social development during the first 1,000 days of life :

- supports secure relationships between young children and their carers
- lays young children's foundations for lifelong mental and physical health
- means young children feel safe and secure, ready to play, explore and learn
- leaves young children ready to achieve and learn at school
- enables young children to manage their emotions and behaviours
- gives young children the skills to form trusting and caring relationships

The First 1,000 days provides the opportunity for first stage intervention with families to provide support to parents and children so that their needs can be met at the earliest stage and prevent poorer outcomes in later childhood, adolescence and adulthood. It offers the opportunity to prevent children, young people and adults from requiring support from statutory children's social care and health services by working in a truly early interventionist and preventative way. It requires investment in this approach from all the agencies supporting young families but, as evidence shows, leads to longer-term cost savings. The board outcomes and impacts that could be achieved from a First 1,000 Days programme will now be tested in an outline business case.

A number of key stakeholders have been involved in developing the case for change through a series of workshops. These organisations form the Collaborative responsible for taking forward the proposals including developing the outline business case.

- Achieving for Children

- Kingston Public Health
- Your Healthcare CIC
- Kingston Hospital Trust
- Kingston Voluntary Action

There will need to be effective joint working between the First 1,000 Dyas programme and other programmes in the transformation portfolio, notably Community Hubs, Complex Lives and the SEND Transformation programme.

6. Workstream 5: Assessment and planning

Considerable progress is being made in improving processes and skill levels across all of the SEN, education, health and social care teams.

Training on outcomes is being delivered by the Council for Disabled Children to strategic leaders on 11th March and practitioners on 31 March. Training on the quality of health advice has started to be delivered by the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND, to health practitioners. Schools have received targeted training on the annual review process where specific improvements have been identified as being required. The SEN Team has received training on commissioning, mediation, emotional wellbeing and resilience. Representatives from schools (SENCOs), the SEN Team and health attended annual review training delivered by the DfE. AfC's Associate Director for SEN was asked to present at this DfE training session to share best practice with colleagues from other LAs. The Council for Disabled Children have delivered a social care specific annual review training session. SEND will be the main topic of workforce development at the whole service social care away day on 27 April.

On processes relating to quality assurance, a new multi agency model has been implemented, with changes including an improved process for flagging areas of specific weakness, a scaling system of overall quality, and a mandatory parent / carer comment to help triangulate other judgements. External moderation will be provided by colleagues from Wandsworth and Merton.

Annual review processes are being improved and Servelec, the provider of the SEN workflow process system, has been engaged again to make improvements to reporting capability. Line management of the EHCP case assistant team has been changed and is now aligned to AfC's Business Support Service. The aim of this is to identify and implement further improvements to processes and bring additional and complementary business process expertise into the SEN Team. A new process has been agreed with schools to clarify which annual reviews AfC will attend and which are to be led by schools without AfC being physically at the meeting. This will result in an improved prioritisation and allocation of limited resources, and a clearer message to parents and carers about the process.

A specific piece of work is being undertaken to identify those young people with health needs that are of a severity below that qualifying for Continuing Healthcare, and though are significant. Work is also underway to improve the process around Personal Budgets. This includes improvements to the way they are explained on the Local Offer, and also to the way they are recorded on EHCPs. Direct payments made regarding social care needs are not consistently recorded as personal budgets on EHCPs, and these will now be added to EHCPs through the annual review process. A letter will go out to relevant families about both these points.

A further change to the annual review process is that all children and young people qualifying for Continuing Healthcare and / or receiving short breaks will be more consistently jointly reviewed by all of education, health and care at annual review.

Within children's social care, a job description for a "Designated Social Care Officer" has been completed and the intention is to recruit to this post within the coming months. There is also an intention to increase the number of "SEND Champions" with the social care workforce from two to five.

8. Finance update

The High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), is now forecast to overspend by £7.0 million in 2019/20. This is a £0.3 million reduction in the previously shared forecast. This takes the in year DSG overspend to £6.3 and the cumulative overspend in Kingston's DSG, including the £3 million advance received in 2018/9, to £20.3million by the end of this financial year.

A meeting with the Department for Education took place on the 24 January. The DfE's team included representation from their Funding Policy Unit. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and challenge Kingston's (financial) Deficit Recovery Plan. It provided a useful opportunity to ensure there were no opportunities to minimise expenditure being missed.



Kingston SEND
Parent Carers Forum

These free events are for children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities living in Kingston Borough and their families. We want to meet as a community, have fun, listen to your opinions and to share information on Kingston's SEND new parent carers forum.

Activities include: Bubble show, lego workshop, silent disco, visits from zoo animals and the Gruffalo! Free Tea & Coffee

FREE & ACCESSIBLE

Family Fun Day

5th April

10am to 12pm

12:30pm to 2:30pm

Facilities include

- A quiet space
- A changing place (mobilier)
- Area to eat a pack lunch or purchase lunch
- Disabled parking

**LOCATION:
CHESSINGTON RESORT
HOTEL**



10am session



12.30pm session

To register for the 10am session visit <https://tinyurl.com/vxqwj3v>
for the 12:30 session please visit <https://tinyurl.com/sxcuh8f>
or scan the codes or email kingstonpcf@gmail.com