

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE</b>		
<b>Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding)</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
Diane Roscoe	Education	January 2023

### **Inclusion**

All staff have participated in Safeguarding training and systems are being reviewed and updated. They have also attended a workshop on Inclusion, to discuss the current Inclusion approaches in Sefton. The same workshop is being offered to Heads/SENCO and parents. There is a new panel system for HNF with triage meetings to ensure all information is collected with robust plans by schools.

### **Exclusions**

Permanent Exclusions:

Dec 31st 2021-22 - 16

Dec 31st 2022-23 - 13

Fixed Term Exclusions:

Dec 31st 2021-22 – 3,062 sessions lost across 454 pupils

Dec 31st 2022-23 – 2,924 sessions lost across 494 pupils

It is important to note that while 40 more pupils have been excluded than at the same point during the last academic year the average amount of sessions lost has dropped, and at the same point last year there were fewer pupils attending due to the updated rules around Covid diagnoses to tackle the more contagious Omicron variant. Managed moves are working well in preventing exclusions.

### **Attendance**

DfE Adviser meeting with Tracy McKeating, Martin Birch and Tricia Davies looking at self-evaluation of the council and the partnerships position in promoting school attendance. Meetings have taken place and continue to do so with senior leaders of secondary schools looking at children who are severely absent from school and examining plans that are in place including early help considering the needs of the whole family, A designated attendance worker for children with a social worker funded by the virtual school as part of the extended duties has been appointed. An attendance meeting has taken place to discuss new model with 100 schools present.

### **SEND**

A case officer with specific responsibility for post 16 has been appointed as well as three fixed term casework officers funded till August 2023. Other fixed term posts have been extended till August 2023.

The demand for EHC Assessments has continued to rise and between October and December this was unprecedented. The increase in early years complexity identified as a key factor together with social and emotional health/non-attendance and social care needs (October – December saw an additional 231 requests).

Requests for EHC Assessments has risen over the last three years from 412 in 2020 to 726 in 2022. In 2020 1765 children and young people had an EHCP, in 2022 this had risen to 2584.

325 EHCP assessments are currently in process; 184 of which are currently at different stages within an overdue category. Compliance within the month of December 2022 (% of plans completed within 20 weeks) achieved 40.7%; the highest within the year.

We have completed 89.4% of Y6 reviews and 61% of Y11 reviews.

### **School Improvement**

The work of the CPD collaborative group which involves service manager and school representation have regular meetings. CPD, funded by school improvement has been targeted appropriately on key areas. We met with various hubs to learn what they are able to offer Sefton schools. The English and Maths hub report that our engagement is a strength of the LA.

Several serving headteachers and retired headteachers are professional partners supporting schools through the school improvement offer. This service is valued by schools and OFSTED.

Keeping in Touch meetings have taken place with GREEN category schools that are higher priority due to data and potential inspection visits. These are considered a positive move forward in ensuring none of our maintained schools are untouched by Sefton school improvement.

Richard Seddon, Participation Officer (post 14) has developed a directory for schools on the 14-19 offer. He is working with stakeholders, schools and settings to ensure that the statutory requirements regarding careers and the new inspection framework are met.

### **Early Years**

The recruitment of SEND team leader, partnership and project co-ordinator portage consultant, inclusion officers and inclusion consultant has added capacity to the team .

Early Years Provider Agreement reviewed and overseen by legal team and sent to providers. It sets out the expectations of LA and providers in relation to the delivery of the free entitlement and all are expected to sign and return.

A quality Improvement tool has been developed and embedded with providers. It identifies the support that settings will receive from the quality team and has been well received.

Health checks were carried out with schools in the OFSTED window and schools causing concern leading to positive outcomes.

### **Virtual School**

Deputy Virtual Head Teacher appointed and leads on the development and QA of Personal Education Plan (PEPs), attendance and the line management of the Education Coordinators.

The electronic education plans (EPEPs) system was launched in Autumn 2022. Training was given to all partners and support for Designated Teachers, Social Workers and Team Managers in the production of quality PEPs continues.

A Virtual School Peer Review was carried out in October, with many positives identified and some clear advice and support for future planning which has been incorporated into the action plan.

### **Academisation**

Meols Cop High School and Bedford Primary School have started the due diligence process to move to Southport Learning Trust and the proposed date is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Savio High School moved to the Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy trust on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.