

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE		
Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding)		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Diane Roscoe	Education	May 2023

Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme

Module 2 has been completed and outputs shared in relation to the root cause analysis of trends and identification of key opportunities. This has been shared with key stakeholders. Module 3 has now commenced to produce the Implementation Plan. A planning day will be held at the start of June, before a grant clinic in Leeds and then final submission of the bid for the Implementation Grant of up to £1 million.

OFSTED Local Area Inspection preparation

A SEND Improvement Consultant has been appointed to lead on Project Managing the Inspection preparations. A contingency plan is being prepared for an inspection within the coming weeks/months while a longer term response is also developed. A self-assessment audit is to be carried out with a multi-agency planning day scheduled for mid June to quality assure the Annex A information required for submission.

SEND

Improvement in compliance within the 20 weeks statutory timeframes continues and is now at 44%. In April 50 EHCP plans were finalised. The back log of cases has significantly reduced to 35 cases.

There are currently 304 EHCP assessments currently in process.

School Improvement

May is the start of our statutory duties in school and we are available to support schools with queries regarding the process. This year we held a briefing for school leaders on how to avoid maladministration and this was welcomed and well attended. During SATS week 10% of primaries and academies were visited to conduct SATS checks. The processes in all schools were thorough and there were no concerns reported to Standards and Testing Agency (STA).

25% of primary schools and 25% of academies have now been informed if they are to be moderated at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. A briefing has been held to give the teachers an opportunity to meet their moderators and set a date for the visit.

The research school offer (support/continuing professional development [CPD] funded by school improvement) has been negotiated and agreed for the next academic year.

Following the CPD group meeting we are in the final stages of confirming our universal offer for the next academic year, funded by school improvement.

The Sefton Post 16 Learning Directory has now been updated and circulated to all schools and Careers Leaders. The team has continued to support schools in meeting

their statutory requirements in relation to Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance. There has also been dialogue with post 16 providers and the D of E to assess the impact of the cessation of the Traineeship programme at the end of July and advocate for an improved offer, particularly in relation to vulnerable young people. Good progress has been made in developing our offer through Supported Internships for young people with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and our 3 Year Action Plan has been agreed and signed off at national level. We are now liaising with schools regarding young people who are at risk of becoming Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) when they leave this summer to ensure timely support is provided and an appropriate offer of learning.

Early Years

The Early Years Conference on Wellbeing and Mental Health was well attended and positive feedback was given. The Early Years Transition Event which involved Schools and Early Years providers was a success and many positive comments were received.

We have successfully supported three private nurseries and one childminder to move from inadequate or requires improvement to 'Good'. The LA staff working with them have been very supportive and challenging in ensuring they were all fit for inspection and that the children are receiving good support.

In order to promote careers in childcare we have attended three high school careers events to discuss Early Years Careers. We have also established links with our colleges and recruitment agencies.

Our SEND caseload continues to increase and we now have 600 children across the Early Years SEND service with 172 Early Years Children accessing high needs funding (HNF). In order to support settings our early notification has been launched. Two master classes for professionals on the importance of informing the service have been held. School support has increased and there is a joint team approach across quality and SEND in schools and settings.

The Early Years team work closely with the inclusion service on delivering better values. This has included Autism Education Trust (AET) training which was attended by over forty practitioners.

Academisation

Meols Cop High School and Bedford Primary School moved to Southport Learning Trust on 1st April 2023. Lander Road Primary School, Thomas Gray Primary School and Ainsdale St John's Primary School have indicated their intention to consider an application to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).