

Report Title: Children, Schools and Families – SEND Data.

Date of meeting:	12 th November 2024		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Children’s Services and Safeguarding		
Report of:	Nadine Carroll – Assistant Director Children’s Services (Education)		
Portfolio:	Children, Schools and Families		
Wards affected:	All		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

Summary:

The presentation at Appendix A outlines data on performance in SEND, refers to the preparation for an impending joint area SEND inspection and confirms the governance arrangements of the SEND Improvement Board (SENDICB), which oversees SEND performance in Sefton.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) That members note the report and seek clarification where necessary.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

The Committee has requested an update on SEND performance.

1.1 Background and Overview: Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

- 1.2 There is a national target for all local authorities to complete and issue Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) within 20 weeks. In Sefton the compliance within the 20-week timeframe currently sits at 43% for the year. The national compliance rate stands at just over 50%.
- 1.3 June’s compliance was 57% and July’s compliance was 45%. August’s compliance was 52% and September’s running figure is currently 70%.
- 1.4 The backlog of cases has reduced from 240+ cases to 38 cases, and of those 21 have plans drafted and 17 have no plans currently, mainly due to school places. It is envisaged that by November 24 there will be no or minimal backlog.
- 1.5 The trajectory for EHCP 20-week compliance is on target for a year end 60% average.

1.6 Background and Overview: Local Area SEND Inspection

- 1.7 All local area partnerships will be inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) over a five year period. The first inspections against the latest framework started in March 2023. This inspection takes place over a three week period.
- 1.8 To date, 40 areas have had their inspection reports published, with several more inspected but their reports are yet to be published. The inspections are not graded, but judgements are made against three criteria relating to the extent to which the local area's children and young people with SEND have positive experiences, or have inconsistent experiences, or there are significant and systemic weaknesses in the area's arrangements.
- 1.9 Plans are in place to ensure Sefton Council and its partners in health and the parent/carer forum are well prepared for a forthcoming inspection, with weekly challenge and improvement meetings established. Data, intelligence and relevant documentation are reviewed and updated to ensure everything is in place for compliance. A refreshed self evaluation (SEF) is being developed across the partnership. In addition, effective practice and positive case studies are reviewed regularly, so the local area is ready to receive the inspectors, highlighting the 'lived experience' of children and young people with SEND, highlighting that partners know Sefton children well.

1.10 Background and Overview: Governance of SEND through the SENDCIB

- 1.11 There are strong governance arrangements around SEND, through the oversight, challenge and direction of the improvement board (SENDCIB), where senior leaders from the Council (education and social care), Health and the Parent/Carer Forum provide effective leadership challenge on a monthly basis. The board is chaired by the lead member for Children and Families.
- 1.12 There are three working groups reporting to SENDCIB, focusing on quality improvement, joint commissioning and co-production. These groups have a wide range of partners working together to improve the outcomes of children and young people with SEND. Details of their work is outlined in Appendix A.

2. Financial Implications

Not applicable

3. Legal Implications

Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2015 both set out the legal framework covering children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

4. Corporate Risk Implications

Not applicable

5 Staffing HR Implications

Not applicable

6 Conclusion

Monthly updates on SEND performance are reported to SENDCIB.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

Impact on Children and Young People:

Working together in the SEND partnership to improve performance across education, health and social care will have a positive impact on the outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will have a Neutral impact.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Services (FD.7823/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5923/24.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision :

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Committee decision.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Background Papers:

There are no background papers