

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy & Partnership Board

21 October, 10.00 – 12.00

Training Room 12, County Hall North, Horsham

Brian Pope, Independent Chair

WSSC

Claire Hayes, AD Education & Skills

Claire Prince, Head of SEND & Inclusion

Kathryn Kellagher, SEND Development Officer

Karen Furse, Head of Standards & Effectiveness

Louise Fox, Head of Service Assessment and Family Safeguarding

Rebecca Turner, SEND Strategic Commissioning Lead

Education and schools

Phillip Potter, Head Oak Grove College

Mark Wignall, Head, Downlands Secondary

Health and Commissioning

Caroline Tozzi, Integrated Care System Health Lead

Toby Silverman, Health Commissioner, SEND

Parent Carers

Rowan Westwood, West Sussex Parent Carers Forum

Department for Education

Liz Flaherty

Apologies

WSSC

Vince Clarke, Director of Children's Services

Sarah Clark, Head of Virtual School

Marie Foley, Head of Data, Projects and Systems

Kieron Lyons, AD Children's Social Care and Early Help

Loretta Rogers, AD Adult Operations

Fiona Mackison, Public Health Strategic Commissioning Lead

Vicky Richardson, Head of Practice, Improvement & Inspection

Daniel Ruaux, AD Corporate Parenting

Andy Thorne, Delegate for LA Finance Director

Toby Wilson, Young Voices

Nadia McGarry, SEND Improvement Lead

Grace Hall, Early Years SEND Lead

Charlene Hornsey, Head of Early Help

Stephen Humphrey, Head of Commissioning

Graham Olway, Head of Organisation and Planning

Education and schools

Claire Kenyon, Busy Lizzies, Early Years

Doug Thomas, Head APC

Simon Brown, Head of SEND, Chichester College

Nicky Smith, Governors Association

Parent Carers

John Clifton, West Sussex Parent Carers Forum

Councillor Representative

Jacquie Russell, Cabinet member

NHS England SE SEND Advisor

Adeline Gibbs

1. Action Log

- Items from 25 June, 3.7,7.1 **all resolved**.
- Items 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 7.1 from 23 Sept **all resolved**
- Item 6.1 from 23 Sept: CP and RW to discuss uptake of Outcomes Framework workshops **resolved**
- Item 9.1 from 23 Sept around SEND sufficiency data to remain open.

2. Discussion around SEND AP Board meetings

- BP asked the board to reflect on whether members are asking how effectively collective ownership of the SEND system is working across the Partnership.
- Discussion followed recognising that up until now the Board has been in a planning and 'set-up' phase, but as it matures could develop to focus on themes. Board members agreed that a tighter focus on the lived experience of children & young people with SEND would be helpful.
- Alternative formats for the meeting were also discussed, such as themed discussions, meeting in schools, input from SENCos and young people.

ACTIONS:

- 2.1 BP to review structure of board agendas and the Forward Plan.

3. 6-month review with DfE

See attached draft presentation.

Discussion points:

- It's clear that much is happening; it's now about gathering evidence of impact. If we got a call from Ofsted today, would they write the same report as a year ago.
- There needs to be recognition that the DfE has to change to support the SEND agenda – it's part of the solution.
- The issues we experience in West Sussex are generally national issues.
- We have to focus on what we can do with the resources we have.
- Within the NHS, there is a greater focus on SEND than ever before and a recognition that it crosses over everything. However, it is a complicated landscape and relationships with providers are specified under a contract; it is hard to change a service specification to address new challenges. They are working on having more consistent arrangements across East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.
- The WSPCF is not happy with some of the slides and do not agree with all the examples of co-production. It was also noted that they are described as a stakeholder, not a strategic partner, on slide 13.

4. Local Authority Inclusion Plan (LAIP) sign off

This now has early years' data, KS2 and KS4 data inserted as requested; it also has incorporated amendments from CT and TS.

The board was happy to sign off the LAIP.

5. EHCP Response Plan

There will be a full focus on EHCPs and the EPS at the next meeting.

Discussion points:

- We have submitted a business case to increase capacity in the EPS.
- New guidance stipulates that assessments should only be on-line if this is what the child needs and we will need to recommission private EPs in line with this.

- A third of requests for assessment are refused, often because of insufficient evidence, which suggests that more work needs to be done with schools around requests.
- We are starting to see the impact of the SENAT reconfiguration.
- Rachael Lee returns as DCO on 28 October and will be joined by a new DCO for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. Their key focus will be health contributions to EHCNAs and Rachael will get involved in the EHCP audits. She will also be based in SENAT one day a week and will train providers. Commissioning letters to all providers now mention SEND.

6. SEND Sufficiency

- The special schools are full and INMSS are nearly full; we have a number of children not yet placed for September and are in a crisis position.
- The attached presentation shows what our three priorities are based on our small budget, and what we would like to do if we had the money.
- Part of the challenge is that there seems to be a disconnect between education and property which we are working to address.
- Last month we were challenged to provide forecasting data. We have met and agreed a process with the special school head teachers to get a five year forecast which will allow us to estimate the provision deficit.
- A SEND Sufficiency lead (Laura Tomlin) has just been appointed to focus on forecasting.
- The action from the September meeting, to provide comprehensive forecasting data, is to remain open.

7. Health update

See attached presentation.

Discussion points:

- Improvements to on-line information and support was welcomed. The next stage is to evidence its impact and how much it is used by families.
- Question from Adeline Gibbs:
Is the data on health KP1 (in SEND Improvement Metrics presentation) supporting the board to be assured of progress? For example, the data for SLT, OT and PT currently shows referral to first contact. Are there plans to capture referral to treatment waiting times?
 - Work is in progress to monitor NHS provider improvement plans in relation to 52+ week waiting times for community health services. Indicators are being reviewed with providers as part of this process.
 - The Pan Sussex Children's Metric dashboard was launched in March 2024, changes to the metrics will be informed by this work and will feed into the place based SEND governance structures.

8. PWG 1, Mainstream and universal provision

See attached document.

Discussion points:

- Improving practice in schools: all intervention schools have a SEND & Inclusion Advisor to work on inclusive practice (OAIP).
- Not all the working groups have finalised action plans but this is being worked on.

9. Update from WSPCF

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGT6IKCRWM/aOeZbsTkh_uZpZpdQvhinw/view?utm_content=DAGT6IKCRWM&utm_campaign=share_your_design&utm_medium=link&utm_source=shareyourdesignpanel

Discussion points:

- It would be interesting to know if the issues raised are particular to West Sussex or if other parent carer forums are reporting similar concerns, particularly our statistical neighbours.
- It was decided to resurrect the idea of setting up a series of meetings for parents to meet with representatives from WSCC and health. CH to take forward.
- In the spring term of 2025, the WSPCF is going to put out an Annual Survey for Parent Carers. These are carried out by other forums across the country and are a valuable source of feedback.
 - The board is asked to consider what information they would like to collect from this piece of work and who they would like to be involved in the planning group (to meet in November/December).
 - It was agreed that WSCC will support in getting the survey out to our families, using the school network.
- The WSPCF would like an update on three items at the next board (wording taken from their presentation):
 - What is happening with the keyworker service and the IPT after March 2025? As these teams support some of our most vulnerable CYP with SEND.
 - What is happening with the Not in Receipt of Full-time Education (NIRFE) working group? With 1000s of CYP being NIRFE, this needs to be a priority.
 - We have many concerns as Joint Commissioning is going – ie what is happening to the Disability Access to Resource Panel? We would welcome a conversation to outline the plan for all the work that did sit under this.

ACTIONS:

- 9.1 Set up Meet the Parents meetings – CH
- 9.2 Consider questions we would like to have covered in the Annual Survey for Parent Carers - All
- 9.3 Consider who from WSCC will be involved in the planning group - CP
- 9.4 Updates for next meeting on keyworker service, IPT, NIRFE and Disability Access to Resource Panel – SH, RT, CP