

# LOCAL AREA SEND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Briefing Update: Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024



This paper provides an update on progress in delivering the Local Area SEND Improvement Plan (Plan).

## 1. Background

The Plan has been approved and published. It was presented at the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## 2. Governance

Within the Plan, it was recognised that we needed to strengthen our governance and partnership arrangements. This has now been achieved with three layers of governance reporting into the Strategic Systems Leadership Board:

- **Local Area SEND Improvement Board**

*Purpose: The Plymouth SEND Improvement Board will ensure effective leadership and provide oversight and scrutiny of the delivery of the Local Area SEND Improvement Plan. This will ensure the delivery of the Priority Actions and recommendations outlined in the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) Local Area SEND Inspection, published on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.*

*The Board will provide system leadership for working together, provide challenge and rigour to the delivery process, and have a collective responsibility to ensure the collaboration to achieve and sustain continuous improvement with a focus on core standards, performance, quality, impact and effectiveness of improvement activity.*

- **SEND Strategic Delivery Group**

*Purpose: The Plymouth SEND Strategic Delivery Group will support the Local Improvement Delivery Board to ensure effective leadership and provide oversight and scrutiny of the delivery of the Local Area SEND Improvement Plan. This will ensure the delivery of the Priority Actions and recommendations outlined in the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) Local Area SEND Inspection, published on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.*

*The Group will be the key executives delivering SEND Improvement Plan activity. Members will receive exception reporting and provide advice, challenge and support to progress delivery of the plan at pace. This Group will run in an alternate cycle with SSDG so every three weeks the leader involved meet.*

- **SEND Priority Delivery Groups**

*Purpose: The key purpose of SEND Priority Delivery Groups ('Group') is to bring our key leaders / practitioners together across the Local Area to implement and deliver the specific areas of action to address the priority action areas and improvement within the SEND Improvement Plan.*

*Our key objective is to deliver the Local Area SEND Improvement Plan within the stated timeframes to improve provision and support to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities within Plymouth. This will be achieved by:*

- *Driving improvement and change at pace.*

- *Delivering policy and operational action.*
- *Using evidence and data to inform priorities and evaluate progress and improvement.*
- *Make recommendations to the SEND Strategic Delivery Group and SEND Improvement Board for system implementation/change to instigate change across the wider system.*

Terms of Reference have been approved for each layer of governance, with an agreed membership. Meetings are diarised between now and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

This is organised around a 6 weekly reporting cycle:

Week 1	SEND Priority Delivery Group Meetings
Week 2	SEND Priority Delivery Group Highlights Report
Week 3	SEND Strategic Delivery Group Meeting
Week 4	SEND Priority Delivery Group Meetings – actions from Strategic Delivery Group and papers for Board
Week 5	All Papers circulated for Board
Week 6	Local Area SEND Improvement Board

### **3. Project Management**

Working with colleagues across: education, children's care, health, schools and the local parent carers forum (Plymouth Parent Carer Voice - PPCV), a suite of documents has been produced to record progress and evidence impact:

- SEND Priority Delivery Group Meeting Record
- Priority Action Areas Tracker
- Highlights Report (see below)
- Balanced Scorecard and Performance Report

Work currently underway, includes mapping evidence requirements and developing a system/process for recording and storage. The Teams site also needs to go 'live' for future reporting and storage. Progress in other areas is covered in items 4 to 8 below.

### **4. Co-production**

Co-production with children and young people is embedded through the accessible version of the Plan that has been created with Plymouth Information Advice and Support for SEND (PIAS) and Youth Ascends. This was presented and adopted at the last SEND Improvement Board in December 2023.

PIAS is starting to work with schools to identify good practice in their co-production with children and young people and parent/carers and to support development of co-production; this is initially with special schools and will build from there. Their work will also include electively home educated children and young people. PIAS is also working with PCC's Practice Manager (Participation) and will take on the maintenance and updating of the accessible plan. Youth Ascends continues to meet fortnightly and is reaching out to schools and other groups to develop a schools and community hub model which will increase the number of children and young people who are able to become involved.

Co-production with parents and carers through PPCV will include a Local Area SEND Improvement 'Charter' and an action plan developed and implemented, which will follow the principles of PPCV's 'Ladder of Co-production.' The PPCV Plymouth wide biannual survey will continue to understand and take forward the parent/carer views to improve the delivery of services and will form part of a wider

series of consultations on service delivery. The surveys will be more frequently circulated to help with the development of data and evidence.

## **5. Multi-agency assessment and support**

Health colleagues have the Access Multi Disciplinary Team system and Education colleagues are developing a Vulnerable Pupil's Panel. A cross-sector meeting was organised to review needs and operational requirements, establish areas of collaborative working and align, where separate processes are required. The first meeting took place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## **6. Plan rationalisation**

During mobilisation, as SEND Priority Delivery Groups started their work, it became clear that there are several co-dependencies and potential duplications within the Plan. Work is therefore underway to identify the co-dependencies to support the work of the Groups.

A meeting is also taking place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February with SEND Priority Delivery Group Leads and advisors from the Department for Education (DfE) and National Health Service England (NHSE) to look at potential plan rationalisation. The scope of the meeting is to simplify and rationalise the plan to achieve improved outcomes for children, young people and families more quickly.

This work will continue in parallel with the delivery of actions in the Plan.

## **7. DfE 'Deep Dive' Monitoring Visits**

The first DfE 'Deep Dive' monitoring visit took place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Council House, specifically focusing on Priority Action Area 1:

*'Leaders, including Plymouth City Council, Devon Integrated Care Board, and school and college leaders must put children and young people with SEND at the heart of all improvement plans by ensuring they contain clear oversight and tracking to measure the direct impact on children, young people and their families.'*

Members of the Governance, Oversight, Culture and Workforce Priority Delivery Group attended, alongside other colleagues and representatives from the DfE and NHSE. This was a positive first Deep Dive, though we need to be able to demonstrate impact over the coming weeks and months.

Future Deep Dives are being organised with the DfE. The next Deep Dive will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 1.30 to 4.30pm. It will cover Priority Action Areas 2 & 6 – Early Identification & Support and Graduated Response.

## **8. Professional Learning and Development**

This is a requirement of Priority Action Area 8:

*'Leaders must ensure that all social care, health and education practitioners have the training they need to provide consistent identification, care and support for children and young people with SEND.'*

It was agreed that leadership would come from the Governance, Oversight, Culture and Workforce Priority Delivery Group, drawing in other expertise as required. This is the proposed approach:

- We design the programme through co-production
- We package existing activity and commission new activity where there are gaps, including delivery methods and use of platforms to engage target learners

- We have a working group to plan and a wider group to design (we need to agree on membership, taking in to account co-production requirements)
- We identify resource requirements and prepare a case for any additional costs

Work will commence following the rationalisation meeting (see above), with the following key milestones:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Milestone</b>
March	A small working group meets to scope and define the programme, including Training Needs Analysis
March to April	The group will address the priorities above and develop an action plan
April to May	A wider group will be formed to design and create the programme
June to July	Programme mobilisation, including alignment with Graduated Approach launch
August	Testing / piloting
September	Formal Launch

The working group will be formed over the coming weeks with representative from all sectors.