

Bristol Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Written Statement of Action Update – August 2020

Background

- Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a joint inspection of Bristol Local Area between the 30th of September and 4th October 2019
- Bristol's [inspection letter](#) identified 5 'significant concerns' and required us to produce a 'Written Statement of Action' (WSOA) that explains how the areas of weakness will be addressed
- The [WSOA and letter](#) of confirmation from Ofsted are published on our website
- We have set up a [page on the Local Offer](#) to keep parents and carers updated about the inspection and our progress in tackling the areas for improvement
- Bristol will have a full re-visit about 18 months after the inspection to see how effectively we have addressed the serious weaknesses
- Our WSOA sets out what we are aiming to have achieved at the end of each four month period over that timeframe
- The end of each of these periods is described as a 'milestone'
- The first of these milestones was July 2020

Our progress against July 2020 milestones

Introduction

- 75% of the (50 plus) actions set out in the WSoA were achieved by July
- 13% were partially implemented but had changed focus due to the need to respond to Covid-19, or were on track to be achieved by the end of term
- 12% have been delayed or paused due to Covid-19

The following pages provide a visual overview of progress so far.

- Green: completed
- Amber: delayed
- Red: not achieved

If you would like more information, please contact BristolLocalOffer@bristol.gov.uk

Priority 1 - Accountability

Governance

- SEND Partnership Group and SEND Improvement Board set up

Performance / data

- Reliable data available via data dashboard
- EHC plan performance monitored and used operationally. Scrutinised at boards and by elected members
- Research project to understand BAME SEND data underway

Roles and responsibilities

- SENDCO conference keynote speaker
- Weekly bulletins to schools and regular meetings with Director of Education and Skills, Alison Hurley

Decision making

- Top-up funding review underway

Joint-commissioning plan

- Covid-19 delayed work with health on joint-commissioning plan.
- Partners meeting in July to agree priorities

Co-produce experience measures

- Paused due to Covid-19
- Bristol Parent Carer Forum chair stepped down

Priority 2 – Identification and Assessment

Training for education settings

- SENCO briefings and work with school clusters
- Comprehensive SEND training programme developed for Early Years and schools

Graduated response

- More schools are using the Bristol Support Plan

Shared outcomes

- Local Area shared outcomes framework launched and training underway

Health training offers

- Education workforce paused due to Covid-19. Looking at virtual model of delivery.

SEMH

- Covid-19 delayed work.
- Work has now started. Education Psychology Service working with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

'First call' service

- Refocused to support families of children with EHC plans during Covid-19

Two year old Health Visitor reviews

- Healthy Child Programme paused due to Covid-19

Community paediatrics transformation

- Paused due to Covid-19

Priority 3 – EHC plans

SEND team capacity

- Recruited 24 additional staff going through training programme
- Restructured team to develop dedicated Assessment Team
- Robust supervision and performance management
- Standard operating procedures written to create consistent practices

Quality assurance

- Framework agreed and EHC plan audits started. Other QA tools being developed
- Data evidencing volume of EHC plans finalised and timeliness increased

EHC plan processes

- 'Time for Change' project working with parent carers to redesign and improve EHC plan template and statutory processes
- Standard letters for parents rewritten
- Joint operational guidance written and shared
- Single template developed for health professionals to contribute to EHC plans
- Additional Educational Psychologists to speed up reports

Sustainable model for health contributions

- Delayed due to Covid-19

Priority 4 – Inclusion

Specialist Provision

- Schools helped identify additional specialist places for September

School Improvement Offer

- Reviewed the way Bristol supports school improvement to enhance offer including SEN
- Working group led by Bristol Early Years Teaching School and Teaching & Learning Consultants for reading
- Draft of the 'Ordinarily Available Provision' for pupils with SEND written and out for consultation.

Transitions

- Early years to school: working group established and research into issues underway
- post-16: 14-25 service established aligned with preparation for adulthood

Attendance and Exclusion

- Task group established and meeting - Inclusion is critical to Belonging Strategy and Covid-19 recovery plan.
- Transition document written as guidance for schools when pupils return to school in September

Autism

- Work to improve transition from children's to adult services on hold due to Covid-19

Priority 5 – Relationship with Parents

Parent Carer Survey

- Parent Carer and young people survey undertaken. 370 parents and 60 young people took part.
- Findings shared to inform QA work and SEND team improvements.
- Full analysis and report published on Local Offer

Co-produced Local Offer Website Development Plan

- Due to Covid-19, unable to engage parent carers fully to make an informed decision for the development, so current focus is on promoting the Local Offer website.
- Revised plan to engage the whole community in the Local Offer website through promotion

Co-production Charter and training of Local Area leaders

- Workshop arranged for March cancelled due to Covid-19
- Development work stalled due to Bristol Parent Carer Forum chair stepping down.
- Interim BPCF chair secured 1 day per week from 1st May and planning strategic co-production developments

Further information

We have a detailed report available which covers:

- Data reliability
- EHC plan statutory process
- Numbers of EHC plans issued in 2020
- Our Autumn priorities

Find the report on the [Ofsted/CQC page of Bristol's Local Offer website](#).