



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT TITLE:	SEND IMPROVEMENT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee with an update on the improvement programme for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) for the Local Area in Wirral. The Local Authority, Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, education settings, parent carer forum, and other relevant stakeholders are considered members of the Local Area.

The report includes the Written Statement of Action Impact Group Tracker which monitors progress against the areas identified for improvement in the Local Area SEND Inspection and Improvement Notice.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is requested to note and endorse the SEND improvement work delivered through the Local Area SEND Partnership Board.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 It has been agreed with DfE and NHS England through the revised Terms of Reference for the Local Area SEND Partnership Board that the Health and Wellbeing Board is the appropriate forum to provide oversight of SEND improvement activity in Wirral, ensuring that the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) is fully delivered by October 2025.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options have been considered. The Local Area SEND Partnership Board will provide updates for information to Wirral Place Based Partnership Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, and Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Local Area SEND Partnership Board continues to meet monthly, holding its eighth meeting on 26th November 2024. The board continues to comply with the requirements of the Improvement Notice. The first formal review of progress against the Improvement Notice takes place on 26th November 2024, with Department for Education and NHS England Advisors.
- 3.2 The SEND Improvement Plan, initiated in May 2024, set out a series of metrics for each WSoA area with quarterly targets. The October 2024 metrics provide the second opportunity to review progress against the planned trajectory. There are 29 metrics which can be assessed for October 2024. Outcomes against those metrics are as follows:
- 24/29 have been achieved or exceeded (83%)
 - 5/29 have not been achieved (17%)
 - This is an improvement on the first review in July 2024, when 70% of targets had been achieved or exceeded
- 3.3 In 8 of the 10 WSoA areas, all targets have been achieved.

No.	WSoA Success Statement	Status
1	Strengthen the quality and timeliness of EHC assessments and Annual Reviews	1/3 achieved
2	Embed meaningful co-production with parents and carers	3/3 achieved
3	Increase parent satisfaction with the area's provision	1/1 achieved
4	Improve the use and utility of the published local offer	3/3 achieved
5	Improve communication with parents and carers across the area	3/3 achieved
6	Improve the relationship between the Local Area Partnership and Parent Carer Participation Wirral	4/4 achieved

7	Increase joint commissioning of services in the area	2/2 achieved
8	Embed effective strategic oversight to ensure effectiveness of plans and provision and hold leaders, managers and partners to account	3/3 achieved
9	Address the lack of accurate, up-to-date and useful information informing the area's plans and impact of these actions	3/3 achieved
10	Embed the graduated response consistently across all schools and settings	1/4 achieved

3.4 Since April 2024, when the new governance arrangements were put in place, 3 WSoA areas have been moved to *business as usual* as sufficient progress has been demonstrated. These are WSoA area 4 (local offer), WSoA area 8 (strategic oversight) and WSoA area 9 (information).

3.5 The *Narrative* sections of the WSoA Tracker report (Appendix 1) contain detail on progress of each WSoA area since April 2024.

3.6 The two WSoA areas where progress has not met the trajectory are related to EHCPs and the Graduated Approach. It is acknowledged that these two areas require time for new structures and approaches to be fully embedded.

3.7 Performance in each of the WSoA areas since April is as follows, with targets highlighted in bold:

METRICS	TARGET	TRAJECTORY								
		04/24	05/24	06/24	07/24	07/47	08/24	09/24	10/24	10/24
EHC 20-week compliance for new plans	75%	14%	17%	17%	26%	17%	17%	16%	37%	15%
Annual Review 12-week compliance	90%								30%	33%
% of quality assurance reviews 'good' or better	75%	22%	24%	27%	30%	35%	36%	35%	40%	38%
Number of tribunals lodged	N/A	13	6	8	N/A	5	8	4	N/A	11
Number of monthly co-production activities	Higher	5	7	9	>6	7	6	9	>6	10
% Children's staff trained in co-production	95%	10.2%	10.2%	15%	20%	16.5%	22.5%	35.4%	35%	45.0%
% of parent carers who 'agree' or 'strongly agree' that they have been involved in EHCP process	80%		60%	53%	30%	64%	56%	55%	40%	56%
Number of complaints (LA)	N/A	9	14	23	N/A	22	10	22	N/A	20
Number of tribunals lodged	N/A	13	6	8	N/A	5	8	4	N/A	11

% feedback surveys 'satisfied' or better (LA)	80%		60%	53%	30%	81%	72%	55%	40%	56%
Number of complaints due to communication	Lower	4	5	8	<6	11	4	9	<6	4
Number of formal communications to parents and carers	Higher	6	10	13	>8	12	10	16	>8	10
Number of local area engagements with parents and carers	Higher	7	11	9	>4	8	7	5	>4	8
% of PCPW meeting requests met- LA	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	75%	100%	100%
% of PCPW meeting requests met- health	100%	TBC	TBC	N/A	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
% of PCPW meeting requests met- social care	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	100%
% of Local Area meetings attended by PCPW	100%	TBC	67%	80%	100%	100%	N/A	80%	100%	100%
Number of formal escalations made by PCPW	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Number of jointly commissioned services	Higher	5	5	5	Higher	6	6	6	Higher	7
Number of children and young people with a jointly commissioned package of care	Higher	23	23	25	Higher	27	30	30	Higher	32
Reduction in EHC Needs Assessment requests	Lower	106	180	126	Lower	153	30	78	Lower	80
Increase % of children with an EHCP in mainstream settings	40%	20%	38.4%	39.4%	40%	39.4%	N/A	33%	40%	33%
Reduction in children with EHCP becoming EHE	Lower	18	18	18	<18	18	N/A	14	<18	25
Number of children with EHCP persistently absent	Lower	1255	1249	1248	950	1264	N/A	918	850	1017
Number of Local Offer hits (monthly)	>3212	13103	13735	13905	>3212	13901	12245	15856	>3212	15391
Number of new Local Offer articles (monthly)	>8	7	18	14	>8	18	12	16	>8	15
Number of new Local Offer content features (monthly)	>8	2	8	10	>8	12	10	10	>8	11
LASPB meetings delivered (in line with TORs)	19	1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	7
% LASPB actions delivered (within timescale set)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Number of LASPB decisions made	N/A	4	3	5	N/A	5	3	8	N/A	6
Reports made to HWBB	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	2	2	2
% of service scorecards completed monthly	100%	21%	61.9%	85.7%	100%	95.2%	95.2%	95.5%	100%	100%
% SEND Dashboard completed monthly	100%	87%	87.9%	92%	100%	95.2%	95.2%	95.5%	100%	100%
Annual publication of SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	0	1	1	1	1

3.8 In reviewing progress against the WSoA and Improvement Notice, stakeholders agreed that focus on impact needs to increase. It is recommended that the reporting template for LASPB is amended to include a section on *Impact for children, young people and families* in which the report author should detail, with evidence, how activity is leading to improvements in experience and outcomes. It was also agreed that the WSoA Impact Group should devote meeting time to gathering evidence of impact delivered through the wider partnership, including community organisations, with this being reported through the existing monthly cycle.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. The LASPB have considered those arising from improvement work on an individual basis and have agreed the necessary arrangements, as is documented in the board's minutes and action log.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council, working with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and its other partner agencies must comply with the Improvement Notice and the actions it contains, as set out in Section 28 (2) of the Children and Families Act 2014. Failure to comply would lead to further intervention from the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing.

5.2 Provision of Education, Health and Care Needs assessments and plans are statutory responsibilities under the Children and Families Act 2014.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT, ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. The LASPB have considered those arising from improvement work on an individual basis and have agreed the necessary arrangements, as is documented in the board's minutes and action log.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 A risk and issues log is maintained and reviewed by the LASPB at each meeting. The LASPB Executive Group meets twice monthly to add additional oversight to risk management.
- 7.2 Should the Local Area SEND Partnership Board not deliver the improvement required as set out in the notice and Written Statement of Action further intervention under Section 497A of the Education Act 1996 would be invoked, thereby directing the Council to take further action to improve SEND services.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Department for Education funds, via third sector organisation Contact, a parent carer forum for the local area. In Wirral, Parent Carer Participation Wirral (PCPW) are the designated group to represent the voice and experience of local families. PCPW are represented at the LASPB and its subgroups. The Participation & Engagement subgroup of the LASPB is Chaired by the Chair of PCPW.
- 8.2 On 19th July 2024, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Lead Member for Children's Services and Director for Children, Families and Education met with the PCPW Steering Group to discuss parent experience, the LASPB and SEND improvement.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside have a legal requirement to make sure their policies, and the way they carry out their work, do not discriminate against anyone. The Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside work in partnership with local and regional partners to develop arrangements necessary to deliver improved outcomes in population health by tackling health inequality which are pertinent to special educational needs and disabilities.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and partners are committed to carrying out their work in an environmentally responsible manner.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Community Wealth Building in Wirral focusses on partnerships and collaboration. These partnerships are led by Wirral Council with external partners and stakeholders, including residents. NHS Cheshire and Merseyside will support the Council in community wealth building by ensuring health and care organisations in the borough have a focus on reducing health inequalities and contribute to the development of a resilient and inclusive economy for Wirral.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Written Statement of Action Tracker October 2024

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Local Area SEND and Alternative Provision Framework [Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

August 2024 Local Area SEND Partnership Board papers are available at:
[SENDLO Wirral. Wirral's Local Offer of SEND Services](#)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with section a of its Terms of Reference:

(a) exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Health and Wellbeing Board	18 th July 2024
Health and Wellbeing Board	19 th September 2024
Children, Young People and Education Committee	23 rd September 2024
Children, Young People and Education Committee	16 th October 2024

