



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday 19TH July 2023

REPORT TITLE:	GRADUATED APPROACH
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee with an overview of the new Graduated Approach and associated toolkit.

In September 2021, the local area's services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). As a result of the inspection, the local area was required to submit a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to address the ten areas of improvement which had been identified. This was approved by Ofsted on behalf of the CQC on 28th March 2022.

Reviewing the Graduated Approach was a key task of the Written Statement of Action. This report provides an introduction and overview for committee members.

Delivering the Wirral Statement of Action and the SEND transformation programme is aligned to the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 priority "Brighter Futures" and the Children's Services Business priority to 'create a culture of inclusion and aspiration'.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

- a) Review and scrutinise the information contained within the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure that Elected Members have oversight of the Wirral Statement of Action and SEND Transformation Programme and its deliverables, holding senior officers to account for progress.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Do nothing: good governance and accountability will help to ensure strong oversight and monitoring of the Wirral Statement of Action. It is important, as part of any improvement programme, to effectively report on progress, highlight risks and provide assurance to elected Members and wider stakeholders.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Monitoring Progress Against the Written Statement of Action

- 3.9 Following the Deep Dive workshops, the WSoA has been fully updated (Appendix 2). There are 106 actions within the WSoA, with 57 fully achieved by June 2023. An overview of completed actions is as follows:

Workstream	Total Actions	Complete Actions	% Completion	Actions Awaiting Success Measure Achievement	Actions Requiring Further Activity
1	15	12	80%	2	1
2	28	13	46%	11	4
3	20	11	55%	8	1
4	13	4	31%	4	5
5	20	11	55%	1	8
6	10	6	60%	0	4
Overall	106	57	54%	26	23

- 3.10 Forty-nine actions are yet to be completed across the six workstream areas. These can be separated into two categories:

- (i) Those described as 'actions awaiting success measure achievement' means that the activity has been completed but performance rates have not yet reached those specified as the 'success measure' in the WSoA.
- (ii) Those described as 'actions requiring further activity' means that there is further tasks needing to be delivered by the Workstream.

- 3.11 This analysis is helpful for the workstreams and SEND Transformation Board as it demonstrates where additional focus on performance improvement needs to be happening. Monthly performance monitoring will be increased in both Workstream 2 (Education, Health and Care Plans) and Workstream 3 (Co-production,

Communication, and Relationships) to support achievement of the success measures.

- 3.12 Across the partnership capacity for improvement activity will be focused around Workstreams 4 (Inclusive Practice) and 5 (Local Provision and Strategic Oversight) to ensure that actions requiring further activity are completed as soon as practicable.
- 3.13 Progress of the WSoA continues to be monitored through the WSoA Performance Group and the SEND Transformation Board. To ensure momentum is not lost, senior leaders have re-engaged with a broad range of strategic leaders across the Local Area partnership and services provided through the Integrated Care Board (ICB). Commitment from Chief Executive level has been re-affirmed and the ICB have appointed a Head of SEND for Cheshire and Merseyside, who is actively supporting the SEND Transformation Programme in Wirral.
- 3.14 The parent carer forum contract with Parent Carer Participation Wirral (PCPW) has been renewed for the 2023-24 financial year, with their steering group members continuing to play an important role in the improvement work and contributing significant time and resource to activities.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.29 There are financial pressures due to an increase in Education Health and Care Plans and the need to transport the pupils to school. Whilst some has been built into the budget there is likely to be higher numbers than expected. There has also been an increase in the demand for EHCP assessments and this has led to a backlog building up and some assessments not being completed within the 20-week statutory timescale. These pressures are proposed to be mitigated by additional budget of £0.350m being allocated to SEND resources and £0.450m to Assisted Travel costs.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out the statutory requirements and responsibilities for the local authority and partners in providing support and services for children, young people and families with SEND. This legislation is underpinned by statutory guidance: the SEND Code of Practice. The Council has a legal duty to fulfil the requirements and expectations as set out.
- 5.2 Delivering on the Wirral Statement of Action will ensure that the local authority and health and education partners will meet their legal duties.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Delivering the WSoA requires resources from staff, ICT and Assets. Since the local area inspection, senior managers, officers and operational staff have been required to take on additional responsibilities to support the transformation programme.

Additional staff have been required at both strategic and operational levels and this may be needed further to ensure the transformation programme can be delivered.

- 6.2 There has been a requirement to develop new ICT infrastructure, for example, to capture and share data better across health, education and local authority partners. There have been requirements for Assets to assist in the establishment of inclusion bases or infrastructure projects which relate to securing improved provision across the local area.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The pace required to accelerate change is significant. Progress will be monitored regularly by the Department for Education and escalated if swift action is not taken, and tangible outcomes identified. Ofsted and Care Quality Commission are likely to return within the next 12 months, meaning that timescales are challenging for the scale and pace required. Partners across the local area are working quickly to prioritise, resource and drive change to provide both assurance of progress and be able to evidence improvement within the timescale.
- 7.2 Failure to invest in the improvement programme carries a risk that the relevant improvements will not be made.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There is parent carer and young person's representation for the SEND Transformation Board and its workstreams. Regular engagement with the parent carer forum's Steering Group and the SEND Youth Voice Group is taking place.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is available here.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The content and recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no community wealth implications arising from the report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Written Statement of Action June 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SEND Joint local area inspection report <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50173702>

Local Area SEND Inspection Framework and Handbook
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/area-send-framework-and-handbook/area-send-inspections-framework-and-handbook>

SEND Code of Practice <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

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
Children, Young People and Education Committee	7 th March 2023
Children, Young People and Education Committee	12 th October 2022
Children, Young People and Education Committee	21 st June 2022
Children, Young People and Education Committee	31st January 2022
Children, Young People and Education Committee	4th June 2021
Children, Young People and Education Committee	28th January 2021
Children, Young People and Education Committee	1st December 2020
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28th January 2020