



**Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee**

22 November 2017

**Report from the Strategic Director,
Children and Young People
Brent Council
and
the Chief Operating Officer,
Brent CCG**

LOCAL AREA INSPECTION OF SEND

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Not applicable
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	Two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix A: Brent Children's Trust Written Statement of Action Following SEND local area inspection 2017. Appendix B: Written Statement of Action Monitoring Dashboard October 2017.
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice. Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have SEND. January 2015. Inspection report from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission 13 July 2017.
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 Between 15 May 2017 and 19 May 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of Brent to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the SEND reforms. The inspection identified areas of strength, but also the following areas of concern:

- strategic leadership of the CCG in implementing the SEND reforms;
- the fragmented approach to joint commissioning causing gaps in services;
- the lack of opportunity for therapists to respond to draft EHC plans before they are finalised;
- poor access to services for some vulnerable groups; in particular, to audiology, OT and speech and language therapy;
- limited opportunities for parental involvement when designing and commissioning services.

1.2 An action plan, formally identified as a Written Statement of Action, has been agreed and is being implemented through Brent Children's Trust, to address these areas of concern.

1.3 This paper reports on this Written Statement of Action, confirms actions which have been completed and improvements made, as well as planned action to secure further improvement.

1.4 The Written Statement of Action was formally approved without amendment by Ofsted (on behalf of the CQC) on 3 November 2017.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Written Statement of Action, Written Statement of Action Monitoring Dashboard and progress following the local area SEND inspection in May 2017.

2.2 The committee is asked to endorse next steps to continue to address the areas of concern identified through the local area SEND inspection.

3.0 Local area inspection of SEND

3.1 Between 15 May 2017 and 19 May 2017, Ofsted and the CQC conducted a joint inspection of Brent to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the SEND reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

3.2 The inspection was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted, with a team of inspectors including a children's services inspector from the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

3.3 In their report, the inspectors identified many strengths in the local area's provision for children with SEND. These included the strong commitment from senior leaders across Brent Council in improving outcomes and services, how GPs offer annual health assessments to young people with a learning disability which strengthens the relationship between a young person and their GP

practice, how children and young people achieved well academically because of the good partnership between schools and the Council, as well as the high quality of teaching they receive. It also noted that the Children's Trust Board ensures that improving education and care outcomes for children and young people remains at the heart of its work.

- 3.4 The report documented that children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are positive about the support they receive. Parents describe how their children's social skills and confidence are developed as a result of the local area's provision and that parents agree that professionals in Brent typically identify the needs of children and young people accurately and promptly.
- 3.5 The excellent care provided by the Ade Adepitan Short Breaks Centre, which was recently rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, was also commended in the report.
- 3.6 Although some aspects of the inspection were very positive, five areas of concern were identified. These were as follows:
- the strategic leadership of the CCG in implementing the SEND reforms;
 - the fragmented approach to joint commissioning causing gaps in services;
 - the lack of opportunity for therapists to respond to draft EHC plans before they are finalised;
 - poor access to services for some vulnerable groups; in particular, to audiology, OT and speech and language therapy;
 - limited opportunities for parental involvement when designing and commissioning services.
- 3.7 The inspectors required the local area to provide a Written Statement of Action in regard to these concerns.

4.0 Partnership action since the local area inspection

- 4.1 Brent Council and Brent CCG responded to this requirement through the strong partnership of the Children's Trust. The Written Statement of Action is attached to this report as appendix A. It includes details of actions already taken and next steps against the priorities identified in the inspection. It will be published on Brent Council and Brent CCG websites.
- 4.2 The Written Statement of Action is monitored quarterly by the Children's Trust Inclusion Strategic Board on behalf of the Children's Trust and by the Health and Wellbeing Board quarterly through the Written Statement of Action Monitoring Dashboard. This is attached to this report as Appendix B. The monitoring dashboard sets out detail on the actions taken, timescales for action and accountable officers. Reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board ensures regular political oversight through the membership of that Board of both the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing.
- 4.3 This dashboard confirms that all necessary actions have been started, with a significant number of improvement actions already completed. The Children's

Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board will monitor the Written Statement of Action Monitoring Dashboard on a quarterly basis.

4.4 Parents/carers, schools, and health providers providing services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities have contributed to the Written Statement of Action and are actively involved in monitoring actions and progress through the 4 work streams of the Strategic Inclusion Board.

4.5 The draft Written Statement of Action was reviewed and amended by Brent Children’s Trust 12 September and the final version endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 5 October. The Written Statement of Action was submitted to Ofsted on 20 October. Ofsted formally confirmed the Written Statement of Action as fit for purpose in setting out how the local area will tackle the necessary improvements on 3 November.

5.0 Monitoring Improvement

5.1 In addition to the tracking of actions through the Written Statement of Action monitoring dashboard, the following performance measures are being monitored through the Children’s Trust Inclusion Strategic Board to ensure that actions are making the expected difference for Brent children and families. Priority targets have been set and remaining targets will be confirmed at the December Strategic Inclusion Board.

5.2 October monitoring data is provided in the table below and identifies that access to Occupational Therapy and Access to Autistic Spectrum Disorder service need significant management action, which is in place and a summary of which is included in the table below.

Outcome and RAG status	Evidence at end of Oct'17	Monitoring frequency	Further action
Access to speech and Language Therapy Target 6 week diagnostic assessment, 18 weeks for treatment. Green	All CYP seen within targets	Monthly	Review pathway to sustain performance
Access to audiology Target 6 week diagnostic assessment, 18 weeks for treatment. Amber	Tier 2 (Community) – CYP longest wait to be confirmed Tier 2/3 (Hospital) all CYP receiving assessment within six weeks	Monthly	Current Tier 2 community wait data to be confirmed. Confirm use of audiologists from other boroughs
Access to Occupational Therapy Target 6 week diagnostic assessment, 18 weeks for treatment. RED	25 CYP waiting longer than 18 weeks for diagnostic assessment. 40 CYP have waited over 18 weeks for treatment.	Monthly	Provider to confirm internal business case to tackle backlog with additional temporary staff
Access to Autistic Spectrum Disorder service Target 3 months to start assessment, 6 months to complete assessment. RED	17 CYP awaiting allocation to a consultant paediatrician 55 CYP are waiting longer than 6 months to complete assessment	Monthly	Additional clinics in place. Work plan of new consultant paediatrician reviewed to take on unallocated cases.

<p>Education Health and Care Plans are holistic in setting out all the needs of the Child/young person, and are completed within required timescales National averages 62.3% (excluding exception cases*) & 57.5 (including exception cases). Amber (performance above the national average but has slightly deteriorated in 2017. There has been a 17% increase in requests for new EHCPs between October 2016 and October 2017. This represents an additional 4 requests per month and has had some impact on performance).</p>	<p>For the period Jan 2017 to Oct 2017 (inclusive) 81.9% EHCPs were issued on time Excluding exception cases). 77.2% of EHCPs were issued on time including exception cases. In both cases this is a reduction in performance from the previous year but this is based on 10 months data so far. The EHCP work stream of the SEND strategic board is considering quality assurance. A joint audit is planned to ensure that EHCPs are holistic.</p>	<p>Monthly</p>	<p>Performance monitoring is considered at the Inclusion Strategic Board. Head of Service (Inclusion) is to consider realignment of resources in early 2018 to meet ongoing commitments to EHCP completion targets. A multi-agency EHCP training programme for all services commences from November 2017</p>
<p>All parents/carers are actively engaged in the co-production of EHC Plans and agreeing outcomes for their child/young person. Green</p>	<p>100% of parents/carers are invited to a co-production meeting for the Education Health and Care Plan.</p>	<p>Monthly</p>	<p>Take up and attendance at meetings is being monitored. Where it is not possible to meet, SEN case officers are in regular dialogue with the parents/carers</p>
<p>More young people with SEND have access to employment and community activities to support them to lead independent lives. Target to be confirmed Green</p>	<p>In 2015 at Key stage 4, 90% of pupils on SEN support were in education employment or training, above national and London averages. 12 learners from 2016/17 enrolled on the Supported Internship programme at Charing Cross Hospital. 7 (60%) of the interns gained full time paid employment. From September 2017 8 more learners are enrolled on this Internship programme</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Working with other local authorities to maximise opportunities in to different job types. A further Supported Internship is being explored with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.</p>
<p>Children and young people with SEND make appropriate progress and outcomes are improved.</p>	<p>Validated 2017 Key Stage Results Progress Measures will be reviewed against 2016 Results in January 2018.</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Training planned for SENCO forum in summer term on Quality First Teaching for pupils with SEND. SEND strategic board to consider impact of DfE's November 2017 publication of a new 'what works' resource for those working with pupils and students with SEN.</p>
<p>Parents/Carers have access to support and services</p>	<p>The Local Offer website is regularly monitored. The</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>The work stream for the Local Offer and</p>

through the Local Offer, including a range of short breaks.	<p>data shows the number of page views on the site between January and May 2017 is increasing.</p> <p>Council services have an email strapline about the local offer; professionals are re-distributing the Local Offer leaflets. Every communication from the Council's special educational needs assessment service signposts parents to the Local offer.</p>		<p>Short Breaks is developing a plan to promote the Local Offer to reach as many parents as possible.</p> <p>All professionals working with families and children with SEND will signpost parents/carers to the Local Offer.</p> <p>Making Every Contact Count** training for Children's Trust partner staff sessions have been booked for December 2017.</p>
Parents/Carers report improved satisfaction with services that are better co-ordinated and reduce duplication – 'tell the story once'.	Satisfaction survey results: commencement date from April 2018 to measure impact of service improvement.	Quarterly	The Inclusion Strategic Board is developing indicators to assess against this outcome, being led by parents and carers. Date of satisfaction surveys to be confirmed.

*permitted exceptions include – Child/young person is absent for at least 4 weeks during the assessment process(for example the school summer vacation) ; the educational institution is closed for at least 4 weeks; the child has missed appointments or there are exceptional personal circumstances.

** Making Every Contact Count is multi agency professional training to ensure that every contact with a member of the public addresses all their needs, including parent/carers of children with SEND being signposted to the Local Offer.

6.0 Next steps

- 6.1 The Written Statement of Action contains actions which remain in progress. Actions have clear time frames for completion with named accountable officers and the completion of these actions remains the highest priority.
- 6.2 There are two key challenges in delivering the Written Statement of Action to address in the next six months; delivering joint commissioning of paediatric services and reduction of waiting times for assessment and treatment.
- 6.3 The local challenges to reduce waiting times for both assessment and treatment in Audiology, Occupational Therapy and Autistic Spectrum Disorder services are exacerbated by national shortages in some health staff groups. Brent CCG is working closely with NHS England to improve recruitment of therapists.
- 6.4 The establishment of effective joint commissioning of paediatric therapy services requires significant preparation activity, including the disaggregation of budgets, the agreement of a single model of delivery for therapy services. An appointment has been made to the post of joint commissioner and this capacity, supported by consistent Brent Council and Brent CCG joint leadership, will help meet this challenge.

6.5 Brent Children's Trust has developed a shared vision for children with SEND, which has shaped improvement work so far. Building on this vision, a joint SEND strategy is being developed with partners and parents and carers to agree the resources and service changes to secure long term sustained improved service delivery.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The actions contained in the Written Statement of Action do not contain any additional financial implications for Brent Council.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 established duties for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities (LAs) to improve the services for children with SEND. Regulations were published in the 2015 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'.

8.2 Local areas' are required to have:

- a clear local offer of SEND support;
- arrangements for jointly commissioning SEND services;
- arrangements to introduce Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) to replace Statements of Special Educational Need, and to replace Learning Difficulty Assessments; and
- arrangement to support children with complex needs transition from child to adult services.

8.3 For the purposes of the regulations, the local area is the geographical area of the local authority.

- Brent local area responsibilities are for children with SEND needs who are resident in Brent, even if they attend educational establishments within a different LA boundary.
- The responsibilities of the Brent local area are held collectively by Brent Council (including Children and Young People department and Public Health), NHS Brent CCG, NHS England, schools, early years' settings, and other education providers.

9.0 Equality Implications

9.1 Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability are a vulnerable group. The work of the Brent Children's Trust will improve the outcomes for these children.

10.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

10.1 Parents/carers, schools, and health providers providing services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities have contributed to the Written Statement of Action and ongoing monitoring.

Report sign off:

GAIL TOLLEY

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