

 	Health and Wellbeing Board 15 July 2019
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People and the Chief Operating Officer, NHS Brent CCG
Update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key Decision
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:	Appendix 1 - Joint local area SEND revisit in Brent
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Children with SEND are a priority area of focus for Brent Children’s Trust and Brent Health and Wellbeing Board. This report provides the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on May 2019 SEND revisit by Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the revisit outcome (see appendix 1), to note the work in Brent Local Area to improve the lifetime outcomes for children with SEND and to continue to prioritise partnership work to continue to improve outcomes for children with SEND.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 SEND reforms were introduced in 2014. In May 2017, Brent local area SEND inspection resulted in a written statement of action for the following “areas of significant weakness”:
- Strategic leadership of the CCG in implementing the SEN reforms;
 - The fragmented approach to joint commissioning causing gaps in services;

- The lack of opportunity for therapists to respond to draft Education, Health, and Care 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.
- 3.2 A Written Statement of Action was developed between NHS Brent CCG and Brent Council. Updates were provided through the Brent Children's Trust to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Brent Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee took assurance on the progress made. Progress was monitored quarterly by NHS England (NHSE) and the Department for Education DfE). All actions were completed by July 2018, and the progress was subject to Ministerial review.
- 3.3 The post-inspection arrangements were updated in November 2018, introducing SEND revisits for Local Areas that had required Written Statements of Action. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework>

Re-visit 13-15 May 2019

- The same team led the May 2019 revisit as had led the May 2017 inspection.
- Documentary evidence was submitted 30 April 2019.
- Over 80 parents provide online feedback.
- Meetings were held with children, young people, parent-carers, frontline staff, and strategic leaders.
- In the introductory meeting, strategic leaders in Brent Local Area set out what progress had been made against the areas of significant weakness.
- The revisit team provided verbal feedback on 15 May 2019.

4.0 Brent Local Area ongoing work to embed SEND reforms

- 4.1 The Joint Brent SEND Strategy was updated to incorporate the feedback from the revisit.
- The occupational health pathway will be updated, using the co-production approach with professionals, parents, and young people, which was successfully used to update the Brent joint speech and language pathway; and
 - The process for drafting Education, Health, and Care Plans will ensure all partners consider the plan for the child as a whole.
- 4.2 Partners within Brent Local Area remain committed to further improving services for children with SEND. Work continues to be led through a joint commissioning group, with routine reporting to Brent Children's Trust, and the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director of Children and Young People

Sheik Auladin

Chief Operating Officer, NHS Brent CCG