

Send Stocktake Morning 17th September 2019

Background

The Children Families Act Board hosted a 'stocktake morning' on 17th September 2019 at Carshalton FC. The purpose of the morning was to communicate and discuss the improvements made in the Local Area since the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) and to discuss areas for development. The draft of the Local Area's 'self assessment' document (SEF) was provided prior to the meeting, and representatives from the Local Area presented their initiatives and progress during the session. The morning was attended by 75 professionals across education, health, social care, parents and the voluntary sector.

This short briefing summarises the feedback received during the morning, both from the plenary session and from the 'stickies' posted, together with the suggested next steps.

Feedback Received

Attendees were asked (1) if they recognised the changes described in the SEF and the presentations, (2) whether there was anything missing and (3) what they thought the next steps should be.

Recognising the Changes

- EHCP timelines, EHCP process, Cognus Communication and Next Steps meetings were highlighted as improved.
- "Acknowledgement - greater spirit of LA taking ownership - need to acknowledge really good step forward and a real positive."
- "Accuracy - EHCPs definitely of better quality. Caseworker/therapist input much tighter."
- Whilst many other changes in schools were recognised, the recognition was qualified with more needing to be done on communications particularly amongst SENCOs and others on the front line along with providing clear pathways to access.
- "Recognise changes, All agreed with but it needs to filter down better";
- "Surgeries very positive"

What's missing?

- Evidence of Impact - the local area is capturing evidence of impact, however much of this is in early stages and will take time to develop fully;
- Developing clearer pathways so that parents and young people can access what is on offer more easily;
- The voice of the Child or Young Person;
- A Local Offer website recognised by families and young people as the place to access up to date and relevant SEND information; and.
- Early Years - evidence of provision and impact is needed in the Self Evaluation Framework (SEF).

Next Steps

- Continue the impetus on collecting evidence of impact;
- Continue the impetus on gathering feedback from families, children and young people;
- Develop communications to the front line/SENCOs;
- Develop greater clarity on ASD/ADHD and PDA assessments;
- Focus on Preparing for Adulthood agenda along with reflection on model of mental health services between child and adult services and the transition between; and
- Develop a You Said We Did Document arising from the specific feedback(see overleaf) received

Attendee Feedback from SEND Stocktake Day 17th September 2019

Support/challenge for Professionals

- Prep session for professionals to know what to expect in an inspection and to challenge each other;
- Developing professionals' induction further;
- Build up SEND Support - Peer to Peer Support, supporting schools with sharing innovative ideas and good practice (g. one Academy trust reviewed their SEND paperwork to align it to the new EHCP process & templates) and feedback into NQT programme;
- Every SENCO/HT to attend SEN panel once a year;
- EHCP Panel members would benefit from a collective event/workstream to ensure a shared understanding e.g on predictive v complex needs, aspects of SEND code of practice relevant to panel decisions; and
- Deploying Speech and Language therapists to schools one day per week (huge need).

Comms to the Frontline/SENCOs

- Develop and publicise a Who's Who in the SEND Local Area partnership and a Who's Who in Cognus with contact details;
- Review language used in SEND communications for clarity, provide a glossary of terms and always provide clear contact and pathway details;
- SENCO Forums need to be shorter and more regular - 45 minute update and 1 per month;
- Closed Facebook/WhatsApp for sharing good practice;
- Communicate the CAMHS Offer - Trailblazers; and
- Communicate Graduated Response in Schools

Local Offer Website

- Remarket the Local Offer Website;
- Improve accessibility of Local Offer Website making sure that professionals can easily locate forms, guides, referrals forms, pathway information and contact details; and
- Provide a *Professionals Drop Down* option.

Provision

- Review Transition Phases Arrangements;
- Review Respite Arrangements for families;
- Training parents as well as school staff to help children e.g SALT and OT;
- Vulnerable Pupil Panel (VPP) needs to be extended to look at the needs of children with high levels of anxiety and not coping with school;
- CAMHS to provide outreach for Children and Young People (CYP) who are too anxious to attend CAMHS.

Quality & Oversight

- Next Steps Meetings - Further improve advice from professionals to schools and ensure expert attends;
- Annual Reviews - Processes, Improvement and gathering evidence of Impact;
- Auditing of EHCPs to include report on impact;
- Examine outcomes for young people with discontinued EHCP to establish learning;
- Monitor number of outcomes/requirements placed on schools;
- Develop service level agreements (SLAs) between the LA and schools providing specialist bases;
- All Specialist Provision in Sutton accessible for Outreach - cost for low needs/free for high needs
- Reflection on the prevalence of young people with mental health issues in the local area.