
Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
Oversight Board Meeting held on 21st January 2021

Present:

Mel John-Ross	Executive Director of Children's Services (Chair)
Amber Burton	SEND Strategy and Service Manager
Joshua Greaves	Deputy CEO of Wellspring Academy Trust
Lisa Loach	Programmes and Improvement Manager
Patrick Otway	Head of Commissioning NHS Barnsley CCG
Nina Sleight	Service Director Education, Early Start and Prevention
Nichola Smith	Primary Representative
Joshua Amahwe	Strategic Finance Manager
Jill Bills	Business Improvement & Intelligence Lead
Steve Harrison	Senior Commissioning Manager – item 5 and 10 only

Apologies:

Paul Castle	Service Director Environment and Transport
Neil Copley	Service Director Finance
Alicia Marcroft	Head of Public Health
Michael Potter	Service Director Business Improvement and Human Resources
Nick Bowen	Co-Chair Barnsley Schools Alliance
Darren Dickinson	Head of Barnsley Alliance

1.0 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 The above apologies were noted and there were no conflicts of interest reported.
- 1.2 Joshua Amahwe was attending the meeting on behalf of Neil Copley and Jill Bills was attending the meeting on behalf of Michael Potter.
- 1.3 Steve Harrison joined the meeting to present item 5 and 10 on the agenda.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the 19th November 2020 meeting were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

3.0 Oversight Board Action Log

- 3.1 The outstanding actions were reviewed, and updates were added directly on to the log during the meeting.

3.2 Actions 20.5.4, 20.5.6 and 20.6.3 are now closed and new actions have been agreed to be added for the next steps.

4.0 SEND Improvement Group Highlight Report & SEND Improvement Plan

4.1 Nina presented the highlight report and update from the Improvement Group.

4.2 On the 5th January 2021, further restrictions were enforced as part of a national Covid-19 lockdown. The impact on children and families will be monitored closely and supported across the system.

4.3 Key actions in the improvement plan have progressed at pace during this last period with continued momentum.

4.4 The Board discussed the progress made this period and the discussion points were noted.

4.5 The board discussed the key plans and / or activities to be completed for the next period and the discussion points were noted.

4.6 The group noted the excellent progress that has been made and thanked Nina for sighting the group on the key next activities.

4.7 There were no further questions raised.

5.0 SEND Sufficiency Group Highlight Report (See/Note Item 10)

5.1 Steve Harrison presented the highlight report from the Sufficiency Group.

5.2 SEND Placement Sufficiency Strategy schemes progressed to approval/new placements agreed in response to ongoing demand for SEND school places.

5.3 The Board discussed the progress made this period and the discussion points were noted.

5.4 The board discussed the key plans and / or activities to be completed for the next period and the discussion points were noted.

5.5 A number of key points were highlighted which were noted by the Board.

6.0 SEND Joint Planning Group Highlight Report

6.1 Amber presented the highlight report from the Joint Planning Group.

6.2 The pandemic continues to have an impact on schools/settings, and they have carried out much work over the Christmas period and into the spring term to stay open as far as possible to as many vulnerable children and young people, and those of key workers.

6.3 Joint working between the Educational Psychology Service and CAMHS continues. The focus of this remains in training trainers and implementing the mental health and wellbeing aspects of the return to education, now with the added priority of supporting in the current situation.

6.4 The Board discussed the progress made this period and the discussion points were noted.

6.5 The board discussed the key plans and / or activities to be completed for the next period and the discussion points were noted.

6.6 There were no questions raised.

7.0 SEND Impact Group Highlight Report

7.1 Amber presented the highlight report from the Impact Group.

7.2 The second meeting of the SEND Impact Group took place in November and there was good attendance, which represented the local area. Actions are being taken forward in relation to scrutiny of the data we have available already and these link directly to the other SEND groups (improvement, sufficiency and planning) and school/setting sector led improvement activities.

7.3 The Board discussed the progress made this period and the discussion points were noted.

7.4 The board discussed the key plans and / or activities to be completed for the next period and the discussion points were noted.

7.5 Mel commented that this is a positive report and we are seeing progress, with some areas doing incredibly well.

7.6 A number of key points were highlighted which were noted by the Board.

7.7 There were no further questions, so Mel thanked Amber for the report.

8.0 Highlight Report – Finance

8.1 Joshua Amahwe presented the finance highlight report to the group.

8.2 The Board discussed the progress made this period and the discussion points were noted.

8.3 A number of key points were highlighted which were noted by the Board.

9.0 Performance Data Quarterly Report and Projections Data

9.1 Amber presented the performance information that was circulated with the meeting papers.

9.2 The presentation stimulated a discussion and the discussion points were noted.

10.0 Sufficiency Report - additional school

10.1 Steve Harrison presented the items that were circulated with the meeting papers.

10.2 The report outlines proposals to build on addressing the current and future special educational needs and disability (SEND) sufficiency issues, following on from the current SEND Sufficiency Strategy.

10.3 A number of key points were highlighted which were noted by the Board.

10.4 Mel thanked Steve for the report and noted that the group was pleased to receive it before opening to the meeting for any questions.

- 10.5 Several points were noted by the group and the resulting actions were noted.
- 10.6 Mel thanked everyone for the discussion today adding that it will really help with further discussion at SMT in a few weeks.
- 10.7 Mel thanked Steve for the report and the work done to date.
- 11.0 Ofsted/CQC Interim Visits Briefing**
- 11.1 Amber presented the briefing paper circulated with the meeting papers and committed to forward on further information as we get it.
- 11.2 Amber informed the group of the work that is ongoing to collect and collate inspection evidence and asked that if anyone would like to be involved in this work further to get in touch.
- 11.3 Mel thanked Amber for the update
- 12.0 SEND Oversight Board Forward Plan**
- 12.1 Lisa provided an update on the planned agenda items currently listed on the forward plan for this meeting, further advising the group that items discussed and agreed today will be added to the forward plan for a future meeting date and subsequent agenda.
- 13.0 Dates of Future Meetings**
- 13.1 Lisa reminded the group that all dates of future meetings through to July 2021 were on the Circulation Dates paper that was shared with the meeting papers. Lisa added that the sheet also informs of the deadline dates for agenda item papers to be provided in order for them to be circulated in a timely way prior to each meeting.
- 14.0 Any other business**
- 14.1 There were no items under AOB, so Mel thanked everyone for their contributions and the meeting was closed.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place virtually on **Thursday 11th March 2021** from 15:00 – 17:00 using Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting.