
Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
Oversight Board Meeting held on 11th March 2021

Present:

Mel John-Ross	Executive Director of Children's Services (Chair)
Nick Bowen	Co-Chair Barnsley Schools Alliance
Amber Burton	SEND Strategy and Service Manager
Paul Castle	Service Director Environment and Transport
Darren Dickinson	Head of Barnsley Alliance
Joshua Greaves	Deputy CEO of Wellspring Academy Trust
Lisa Loach	Programmes and Improvement Manager
Alicia Marcroft	Head of Public Health
Patrick Otway	Head of Commissioning NHS Barnsley CCG
Michael Potter	Service Director Business Improvement and Human Resources
Nina Sleight	Service Director Education, Early Start and Prevention
Nichola Smith	Primary Representative
Joshua Amahwe	Strategic Finance Manager
Leigh Roberts	Quality Assurance and Governance Officer – item 10 only
Jane Allen	Service Manager (PAI & EW) – item 12 only

Apologies:

Neil Copley	Service Director Finance
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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.

1.3 Leigh Roberts joined the meeting to present item 10 on the agenda.

1.4 Jane Allen joined the meeting to present item 12 on the agenda.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 The minutes of the 21st January 2021 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 19.5.8 – Patrick to present report from this action to the next SEND Oversight Board meeting. Presentation of report to be added onto the forward plan.

ACTION: LL

3.3 21.1.2 – presentation of Q4 report to be added to forward plan to come to a future meeting of the SEND Oversight Board.

ACTION: LL

3.4 Actions 20.5.5, 21.1.2, 21.1.3 and 21.1.4 are completed and agreed for closing.

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. On the 22nd February a timetable for the easing of restrictions was announced. 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 Mel thanked Nina for the report and opened up the meeting for any questions.

4.7 Mel added that as part of our SEF we have invited a peer challenge review under the regional sector led improvement programme. It is felt that the time is right to test our SEF and receive feedback on our strengths and areas for development.

4.8 A number of key points were highlighted in relation to the peer challenge which were noted by the Board.

5.0 SEND Sufficiency Group Highlight Report

5.1 Darren 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 Mel thanked Darren for the report, and added that today's agenda includes an item on setting up a project board to progress this work.

5.6 A number of key points were highlighted which were noted by the Board.
ACTION:LL

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 are now preparing for re-opening in March. Inclusion and support services have been working with schools/settings and this will continue to have a focus on wellbeing for the return to education in the near future.

6.3 Engagement and participation is benefiting from a more structured approach through planned activities that underpin delivery of the strategy. There has been intensity around the high needs block, which builds understanding of the pressures.

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 Mel thanked Amber for the update and opened up the meeting for any questions.

6.7 The Board accepted the report and there were no points or questions raised.

7.0 SEND Impact Group Highlight Report

7.1 Amber informed the meeting that there had not been a meeting of the SEND Impact Group between the Jan 2021 and today's meetings of the SEND Oversight Board.

7.2 The next meeting of the group will be held on the 6th May 2021.

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

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

9.0 SEND SEF – Q3 Data Update

9.1 Nina and Darren presented the update for the SEND SEF Q3 Data.

9.2 It was agreed that the report will be brought back to the Board at the end of quarter 4 and will be added to the forward plan.

ACTION: LL

10.0 Audit Highlight Report (EIS 6 Month QA Summary Report Sep 20-Feb 21)

10.1 Leigh Roberts presented the audit highlight report that had been circulated with the meeting papers.

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

10.3 Mel thanked Leigh for her report and added that a lot of work has been done around compliance.

11.0 New Special School – programme board update

11.1 Mel updated the meeting about the set up of the Programme Board.

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

12.0 CME, Partial Timetable, SEN, EHE & EWS DMT reduced provision report

12.1 Jane Allen presented the two reports that had been circulated with the meeting papers.

12.2 Jane updated the Board on the work that is taking place to address the issues and the discussion points were noted.

13.0 SEND Oversight Board Forward Plan

13.1 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.

14.0 Dates of Future Meetings

14.1 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.

15.0 Any other business

15.1 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 20th May 2021** from 14:00 – 16:00 using Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting.