

**Cover Sheet**

**Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 10 July 2024**

**TB2024.61**

---

**Title: SEND Improvement and Assurance Board update**

---

---

**Status: For Information**

**History: This is the first report on this subject**

---

---

**Board Lead: Chief Executive Officer**

**Author: Clare Winch Director of Regulatory Compliance and Assurance**

---

---

**Confidential: No**

**Key Purpose: Assurance**

---

## **SEND Improvement and Assurance Board update**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an overview of the work undertaken at system level following the Area SEND inspection of the Oxfordshire Local Area Partnership.
- 1.2. The report is provided reflecting the position since the inception of the SEND Improvement and Assurance Board, set up in response to the formal report that was published in September 2023.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1. Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a joint inspection in July 2023 of the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), across the local area partnership.
- 2.2. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (ICB) are jointly responsible for the planning and commissioning of services for children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire.
- 2.3. The report highlighted five priority action areas and four areas for improvement these were formally responded to by OCC as the statutory body responsible for the response, with an action plan covering each of the actions identified.

### **3. Summary of Priority Action Plan (PAP)**

- 3.1. In response to the report an overarching action plan was drawn up and signed off by OCC. In addition an outline governance structure was put in place to oversee the implementation of the actions plan, a summary of this is included in Appendix 1 of the report.
- 3.2. The SEND Improvement and Assurance Board (SIAB) has been in place since November 2023 and has met monthly since then. This Board has representatives from OCC, ICB, Oxford Health, OUH and the Oxfordshire Parent and Carers Forum. The Director of Regulatory Compliance and Assurance is the OUH representative on the Board acting on behalf of the CEO and has provided active check and challenge of Board reports, when they have been presented, as required. Offering assistance in terms of good governance, risk management and good evidence practices.
- 3.3. The table below provides a summary of the actions included in the published report along with a summary of progress to date:

Priority Actions	Summary progress noted to date
<p>Leaders in the local authority, ICB and education, health and care providers should urgently prioritise systems to gather the views of children and young people with SEND effectively. Leaders should use these views to inform their strategic planning for, and evaluation of, Area SEND services that improve the outcomes and experiences of children and young people with SEND children and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A memorandum of understanding has been developed across all partners to define the SEND Local Area Partnerships involvement and engagement with the Oxfordshire Parent and Carer Forum, which will cover the capturing of parent and carers views.</li> <li>• A number of engagement events have been held (as reported to SIAB February 2024)</li> <li>• The June meeting was attended by the SEND Youth Forum</li> </ul>
<p>Leaders should develop communication systems across the partnership to improve the efficiency and quality of their information-gathering processes to ensure that children’s and young peoples and young people’s needs are understood and met effectively through coordinated through coordinated approaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A SEND improvement communications strategy was first developed in January and was updated following feedback in February 2024</li> <li>• The Chair of the SIAB provides a Blog of the meeting that is available via the OCC website. <a href="#">SEND Improvement webpage</a></li> </ul>
<p>Leaders across the partnership should establish rigorous processes to help ensure the improved timeliness and quality assurance of EHC plans. Leaders should use this learning to improve the quality of new and existing EHC plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Education and Healthcare Plans (EHCP) process has been subject to review and improvement in the timeliness of completion of new plans has been reported.</li> <li>• EHCP Audit Data has been reported since April 2024, this is reporting information on quality of plans.</li> </ul>
<p>Leaders should improve the commissioning of services to ensure that services to ensure that children, young people and their families receive sufficient support to better meet their needs and improve parental confidence in the SEND system.</p>	<p>Information on the following has been provided to the SIAB to assist with the current context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative provision / Schools’ data</li> <li>• Needs of children with EHCPs</li> <li>• Post 16 data</li> <li>• Mental Health Support Teams</li> </ul>
<p>Leaders should identify the steps that they will take to collectively monitor and measure the impact of their strategy and actions. These plans should be co-produced with and communicated clearly to children, young people and their families so that their experiences and outcomes improve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SIAB in February received a presentation on the development of a system wide dashboard, this is still under development.</li> <li>• The SIAB in June saw the first results of some more combined data, from OCC, OH and OUH, where this was available.</li> </ul>

3.4. In addition to the formal actions the report highlighted the following areas for improvement, these have been incorporated into the action plan and will be the focus of future meetings, each of the actions has an impact statement and outcomes will be monitored via the development of the KPIs as highlighted above.

- Evaluate the quality and impact of services and joint working more effectively to inform improvements that lead to better outcomes and experiences for children and young people with SEND.
  - Improve their strategic approach to transition planning at all ages so that children and young people receive the right help and support they need to lead successful lives.
  - Continue to develop their oversight, strategy and commissioning arrangements of suitable alternative provision so that there is sufficient suitable provision that meets the needs of children and young people with SEND.
  - Continue to address the long waiting times for children and young people requesting support from health services. The local area partnership should ensure that support is in place from health services for children and young people who are awaiting assessments.
- 3.5. Certain aspects of this programme of work overlap with the Trust's aspirations in terms of it's Anchor Institution status. Opportunities in relation to this aspect in terms of the potential offer of work experience and job opportunities, linking in the work of our staff Disability Network have also been highlighted, where possible.

#### 4. Recommendations

- 4.1. The Trust Board is asked to:
- **note** the report to the Board

## Programme Governance Meetings & Reporting Cycle

