



# Sheffield Local Area Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) 0-25

## Development of Written Statement Of Action



**NHS**  
Sheffield  
Clinical Commissioning Group



Sheffield City Council



Sheffield  
City Council

# Summary

- We have until 30 April to respond to Ofsted with a Written Statement of Action (WSOA)
- The WSOA sets out how we will respond to each area of weakness identified in the inspection
- Seven areas of weakness identified
- Our response needs to include the outcomes we want to achieve in each area
- Various meetings and consultations have taken place to inform initial content
- Drafting is ongoing – and being informed by feedback

# 1. Strategy

**Inspection finding:** The lack of a co-produced, coherent vision and strategy for SEND in Sheffield

## **Draft Outcomes:**

- **Producing the strategy:** A co-produced SEND Strategy for Sheffield that drives a coordinated approach to deliver improvement for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
- **Communicating and embedding the strategy:** A full and coherent communication and engagement plan to ensure the vision and strategy are understood and supported by stakeholders
- **Delivering the strategy and accountability:** A clear performance, governance and accountability framework to ensure the strategy is effectively delivered and results in improvements for children and young people with SEND

## 2. Communication & relationships

**Inspection finding:** Weaknesses in communication, clarity and consistency in the relationship between the local area leaders, parents, carers, children and young people

### Draft Outcomes:

- **Clear and consistent information:** Our local offer will provide clear and consistent advice. This will mean that all the information children, young people, their families/carers and providers need to understand about processes and SEND systems will be accessible
- **Clear and consistent communication and engagement:** Clear communication routes and a consistent approach to effective engagement to ensure children, young people and families/carers are better able to access support
- **Embedded Co-production:** Approach to co-production that is embedded in practice so that children, young people and families/carers are able to influence their support and the development of SEND services
- **Tell Us Once:** We will have a citywide process of 'Tell us once' for a young person's story to be communicated to all agencies including hospitals to ensure children, young people and families/carers are not having to continuously repeat their stories



# 3. Strategic oversight by CCG

**Inspection finding:** Poor strategic oversight of SEND arrangements by the CCG, which results in unacceptable waiting times for access to specialist equipment and appropriate pre- and post-diagnosis support and children and young people's needs not being met

## **Draft Outcomes:**

- **Understanding and Accountability:** Improved reporting, governance and data flows related to SEND in the CCG, to ensure services better meet the needs of children and young people with SEND
- **Clinical Oversight:** Improved CCG clinical oversight of SEND and quality assurance of EHCP process to ensure children and young people receive better SEND support
- **Delivering on Priority Improvements:** Address existing service issues



# 4. Commissioning

**Inspection finding:** Weaknesses in commissioning arrangements to remove variability & improve consistency in meeting the education, health & care needs of children & young people aged 0 to 25 with SEND

## **Draft Outcomes:**

- **Understand Needs:** Develop a full and shared understanding of children and young people's education, health and care needs to inform commissioning planning and decisions, resulting in more effective SEND support
- **Mapping Commissioning Requirements:** Ensure a clear understanding of existing commissioning requirements for children and young people with SEND and how current commissioning arrangements align; identify where we have gaps and inconsistencies; and engage with children, young people and families for feedback as part of the commissioning cycle
- **A Consistent & Improved Citywide Programme:** Develop a joint local area commissioning programme for SEND support and a consistent approach to the way we commission services, to ensure the development of more effective support

# 5. Education Health & Care Plans (EHCs)

**Inspection finding:** Weaknesses in the quality and timeliness of EHC plans

## **Draft Outcomes:**

- **Timely Assessment:** EHC Needs Assessments will be compliant with the statutory requirements of 20 weeks to ensure children and young people receive timely support
- **High Quality EHC Plans:** The quality of EHC Plans will be consistently good with a clear quality assurance process in place so children and young people's SEND needs are effectively met



# 6. Mainstream schools

**Inspection finding:** Inconsistencies in identifying, assessing & meeting needs in mainstream primary and secondary schools

## **Draft Outcomes:**

- **Consistent approach to understanding, assessing & meeting needs:** The graduated approach to meeting needs will be embedded across the city, the Sheffield Support Grid will be consistently used & decision making will be consistent to ensure an equitable allocation of support & resources
- **Consistent & clear expectations:** Clear understanding & expectations of the roles & responsibilities of staff & services so that schools are clear about the help they and others should be giving, to ensure the best support for children and young people
- **Improved practice:** Approaches to quality assurance & identifying & supporting school improvement needs, to ensure practices develop and improve resulting in better support for children and young people
- **The right services and support will be in place:** So all children and young people are able to successfully access a full time education in school



# 7. Transitions

**Inspection finding:** Weaknesses in securing effective multi-agency transition arrangements for children and young people with SEND

## **Draft Outcomes:**

- **Supported journey into and through education:** Effective transition arrangements are in place to support children into school and across key transition points through education so pupils who have SEND, and their parents/carers, feel that their transitions are well planned and they are supported to successfully access the right provision in the next stage of their education
- **Coordination across services:** Strong partnership working between health, education and care to facilitate a coordinated and seamless transition across services
- **Seamless step into adulthood:** There is a coordinated and seamless transition between children's and adult services ensuring every young person meets their aspirations and their continuing needs are met for health, education and care

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# Next steps

- Consultation on draft Written Statement of Action - Up to end of March. To include:
  - Key stakeholders
  - Key Boards
  - Cabinet members
  - Leadership and Strategy Group and Governing Body
- Feedback used to revise draft – Up to mid-April
- Relevant approvals in SCC and CCG
- Document submitted – by 30 April