

SEND Update

**Executive Advisory Panel
for Education, Skills and Employment
- 4 April 2022**



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Initial Assessment of SEND – Oct/Nov 21

An initial health check on the position of SEND across the Local Area identified:

- While there are some good examples, co-production at every level is not yet embedded and there is not a consistent understanding of what this means. Development of a shared understanding of co-production is a priority for the SEND Accountability Board.
- There is not yet a shared and agreed understanding of the issues, and the steps being taken and needing to be taken to address these. While there was data available it was not joined up, not widely shared, and not being used to inform priorities / next steps.
- Although the Northamptonshire SEND Strategy was co-produced, unless directly involved in the delivery groups, partners, including schools, were not aware of the vision or strategy for SEND or the progress being made against priorities. Co-production of a clear vision, agreed priorities and strategy based on a strong evidence base will support shared ownership of improving SEND across the Local Area – making improving SEND everyone’s business
- Expectations are not clear and processes are not joined up. Expectations of all partners regarding implementation of the graduated approach need to be clearly articulated and linked into processes, including pathways and guidance for accessing additional support (linking into Leadership for SEND, Improving Practice and Outcomes and Improving the Experience for Families).
- Communication regarding SEND has been an issue both within the Council and between the Council and partners. A communication strategy and plan is key to ensuring all partners are supporting and influencing delivery of the strategic plan

Working with Northamptonshire Parent Carer Forum (NPFG)

- Joint working with Northamptonshire Parent Carer Forum Group (NPFG) is now a key element of our SEND strategic work.
- We are working to embed co-production with Parent Carers and young people into all of our partnership work on SEND
- NPFG reps are members of the SEND Accountability Board and working groups
- NPFG are working with us to develop a presentation on effective co-production and partnership working with families which will be rolled out to all services and partners so that all partners understand what this means in practice.
- NPFG are setting up focus sessions across the local area to enable us to listen to parents' views on the current position (what is working well and what are the issues) and what they would like to see as next steps. This will inform the SEND Vision and Strategy for North Northamptonshire

SEND Accountability Board

- There is really good engagement from all partners in the SEND Accountability Board and workstreams arising from it.
- This has had an impact on shared ownership of SEND improvement actions with work moving forward and developing, which should in turn impact on improved SEND provision.
- The Board meets monthly to ensure actions are identified and work is progressed effectively

Local Area SEND Vision and Strategy

- Schools, families and other partners have told us that they are not aware of / clear about what the vision and strategy for SEND is in the local area.
- A shared understanding of priorities and strategy is required to ensure all partners support its delivery, making improving provision and support for children and young people with SEND and their families everyone's business.
- A multi-agency working group has been set up and have reviewed other LA SEND Vision and Strategies in order to inform recommendations for its development.
- The group has developed a template of key questions for use with different groups, services and partners to identify what is working well and what are the challenges and gaps to inform the self evaluation, the SEND Vision and Strategy and the actions required to deliver it. Co-production of this is key to successful implementation
- A delivery plan will be co-developed to support its implementation.



Initial thoughts on shared priorities identified by the working group

1. Co-production at the heart of strategic and operational practices
2. SEND – Everyone’s Business
3. Making good practice common practice
4. Identifying right needs at the right time
5. Right support at the right time



SEND Data development

- A joint agency working group has been set up as a working group of the SEND Accountability Board to develop the multi agency data sets, areas for further interrogation, initial hypotheses and recommend next steps that will support improvement in SEND provision across the area.
- A range of initial data has been collated and further data is being put together by partners, including key themes from feedback and quality assurance processes / specialist place planning, which will inform a comprehensive Multi Agency SEND Dataset and SEND Dashboard.
- Northamptonshire education data has been split back to 2018 for North Northants schools and for EHCPs maintained by North Northamptonshire so trend data could be analysed.
- This is helping to inform our Self Evaluation and Strategic Plan as well as communication with all partners.

SEND Data development

- Initial trend data on Education SEND profile across North Northamptonshire has been presented to the SEND Accountability Board. This was updated in March with Jan 22 census data (North Northants schools) and SEN2 data (EHCPs maintained by North Northants). National and Statistical Neighbour comparisons are available July 22
- A business case has been developed to support the infrastructure required to efficiently deliver this in the future.
- This is in addition to the local data being produced and developed within services (e.g. EHC Service and EPS), some of which will feed into the SEND Data Dashboard.

Graduated Approach Guidance

- A working group comprising all key partners has been set up to co-develop clear guidance and support to settings and schools regarding expectations of SEND provision across universal, targeted and specialist provision.
- It will include pathways to support through early help and social care, and through health services
- This will support clarity of the Local Offer.

Quality Assurance (QA) Framework

- A multi-agency quality assurance framework and tool has been developed to quality assure EHCPs and secure improvement in consistency of quality of advices and EHCPs.
- This was initiated in March 2022 and is happening monthly
- This will link in with service level QA processes.
- This work will support the regional pilot project we are involved in which is developing a tool for measuring improvement of outcomes in EHCPs.

Improving Communication

- It is recognised that communication has been an issue.
- A Communications Task and Finish group has been set up to map existing communications channels, including the Local Offer Newsletter, and to develop a SEND information update that all key SEND updates will be channelled through.
- Senior Officers from across partner agencies are meeting with NPFGB every 3 weeks to support better communication and joint working

Workforce Development

- Workforce development is being developed, including accessing the DfE SEND offer on improving quality of Education, Health and Care Plans.
- North Northamptonshire are part of a pilot project with Council for Disabled Children to develop an outcomes based SEND data dashboard that will become part of our SEND Dashboard.
- NCFG are working with us to develop a presentation on effective co-production / partnership working which will be rolled out
- We are reinstating the SENDCo Network
- We are looking at other workforce development already in place that we can add to and ensure there is a SEND Focus

SEND Services The Picture now...

- The permanent team manager has now been recruited and started in April 2022.
- An action plan is now in place targeted at improving performance in the number of assessments undertaken on time; addressing the backlog
- Reporting is also being established to oversee timescales and allocation of workload to ensure equity and address gaps in the allocation of the workforce for out of time assessments, as well as timeliness of annual reviews.
- A business case is being developed for the re-structure the SEND operational team. Job descriptions are underway and will be finalized by the middle of April.
- A team of 9 fixed term case workers have been recruited, 7 have commenced and undertaking induction.
- The implementation of the newly established locality decision - making groups now ensures wider support services are contributing to all decisions to assess and to issue EHCPs and to begin to provide some oversight of the allocation of resources going forward.
- The implementation of the sensory decision- making group is set to commence in April and work has begun to develop decision - making groups for SEMH and Communication.
- Initial work has now commenced on the development of operational procedures for assessment and reviews.

Out of time assessments (March 2022)

There are currently 75 EHCPs out of timescale.

Plans issued in March

53% of plans were issued within the 20 - week timescales.

SEND Services Data - EHCPs

- Performance is systematically monitored and actions taken to address issues
- The percentage of Education, Health and Care Assessments completed within 20 weeks is improving, and actions are being taken to continue the improvement trajectory
- The percentage of advices completed on time by the EP service have improved

DfE SEND Data North Northamptonshire 2021

Monthly KPI

*[updated](#) since last month's report

		Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	YTD
1	New EHC Needs Assessment Requests	54	85	80	72	33	55	58	90	72	73	64	121	857
2	20-week EHC Needs Assessments completion rate	26.7%	19.4%	8.0%	14.6%	20.0%	20.0%	9.1%	8.8%	40.9%	40%	59%	53%	28%
2a	20-week EHC Needs Assessments overdue by 30-51 weeks											80	70	
2b	20-week EHC Needs Assessments overdue by 52+ weeks											3	5	
3	Number of Annual Reviews due	145	210	198	151	80	96	117	200	198	178	202*	277	2052
4	Annual Reviews completed within the 12-month time scale	57.2%	66.2%	61.6%	70.9%	75.0%	59.4%	48.7%	32.5%	41.9%	48.6%*	45.5%*	33.6%	50.1%
5	Number Mediation Meetings	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc	0	0	1	2	1	1	3		8
6	Number of Tribunal Hearings	4	4	8	5		7	11	10	13	11	4	7	84

Elective Home Education

		Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	
7	EHE with EHCP	-	-	24	23	22	26	23	23	24	25	28	28	

