

Decision Maker: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date: THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY 2020

Title: OUTCOME OF THE BROMLEY LOCAL AREA SEND INSPECTION

Contact Officer: Sarah Childs, Designated Clinical Officer SEND, BCCG
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Ward: Borough-wide

1. SUMMARY

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to

- 1.1 Note the Ofsted and CQC Local Area SEND Inspection outcome letter.
 - 1.2 Comment on the inspection findings and future improvement plans
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2. REASON FOR REPORT GOING TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

- 2.1 To be considered under JSNA Section 4: Children and young people with established needs
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3. SPECIFIC ACTION REQUIRED BY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND ITS CONSTITUENT PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

- 3.1 Report provided for comment and scrutiny. LB Bromley and Bromley CCG are the lead agencies in the local area.

Health & Wellbeing Strategy

1. Related priority: [Delete as appropriate] Children with Complex Needs and Disabilities Children with Mental and Emotional Health Problems

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Total savings: Not Applicable:
 4. Budget host organisation:
 5. Source of funding:
 6. Beneficiary/beneficiaries of any savings:
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Supporting Public Health Outcome Indicator(s)

Not Applicable:

Glossary

SEND	Special educational needs and/or disabilities
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CCG	NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
CYP	Children and young people
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

4. COMMENTARY

4.1 The Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) SEND Local Area inspection was announced on Monday 9th September and took place between 16th and 20th September. The inspection considered the effectiveness of the Bromley local area in implementing the SEND reforms and determined whether the Council or CCG would be required to submit a Written Statement of Action.

4.2 Bromley Council and Bromley NHS Clinical Commissioning Group welcomed the inspection, which provided a real opportunity to evidence the local area's hard work and our shared commitment to improving our services and support for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

4.3 The inspection focused on three key areas:

- How effectively does the local area **identify** children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- How effectively does the local area **assess and meet the needs** of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- How effectively does the local area **improve outcomes** for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?

4.4 The inspection outcome letter was finalised in November, however due to the pre-election 'Purdah' period, Ofsted was not able to publish the letter until after the general election. The inspection report (dated 8th November 2019) was published on Monday 23rd December 2019.

4.5 The letter outlines the findings from the inspection, including areas of strengths and some areas for further improvement (Appendix 1).

4.6 During the inspection week, inspectors from Ofsted and CQC held a series of meetings and focus groups, which included staff from the Council, Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group and service provider organisations. In addition, there was broad representation from partners, providers and families across the local area at the focus groups, which covered 16 areas:

- Early years
- Identification of SEND and early intervention
- Vulnerable groups with SEND
- Support for children with disabilities and transition to adulthood
- Outcomes and impact of local area improvements on raising standards
- Assessment and meeting needs
- Universal family nursing

- School nursing
- Health visiting
- SEN panel arrangements
- Joint commissioning
- Social participation
- Community nursing
- Therapies
- Multi-disciplinary diagnostic pathways in health
- Social emotional and mental health

4.7 Inspectors also visited a number of education and health settings during the week. The visits included meetings with leaders and governors, practitioners, parent carers and also children and young people. Inspectors also had an opportunity to review individual files for children and young people.

4.8 In addition to the meetings at provider settings where inspectors had the opportunity to meet with children and young people (CYP) and parent carers, there were further opportunities through two closed groups during the inspection week.

4.9 During these sessions, CYP and parent carers met with inspectors directly to provide their personal views. This was an opportunity for inspectors to hear first-hand of individual stories, which afforded inspectors a greater understanding about lived experiences.

4.10 Through the self-evaluation of the local area, the Council, CCG and other partners were able to provide inspectors with areas of strength including evidenced examples of good practice and sustained improvement. Examples of good practice include:

- Leaders know the local area's demography and geography. They are aware of the diverse needs of their communities. They deploy resources to those areas with the greatest need.
- Elected members of Bromley Council support leaders in prioritising improvements for children and young people with SEND. For example, the council has invested in high needs funding and created new jobs for officers and healthcare professionals to strengthen operational delivery.
- Jointly funded services enable children and young people with very complex needs to access good quality provision without delay.

4.11 The self-evaluation also set out 18 key areas for improvement (Appendix 2), under which we will maintain the shared focus to achieve our ambitions for children and young people who have SEND.

- 4.12 The self-evaluation was judged secure by Inspectors, indicating that the Council, CCG and other partners know the local area well and have an accurate view of the performance and quality of our services. It was reassuring that Ofsted and the CQC felt that we know ourselves well, with the recommendations identified aligning closely to the 18 areas for improvement identified by the local area, with no unexpected surprises.
- 4.13 The local area has been found to have made sufficient progress and was not required to submit a Written Statement of Action. Nevertheless, we recognise that further work needs to be done to achieve the excellence in services we aspire to. This was evident in some of the feedback and discussions the inspectors had with parent carers, in that improvements in the lived experience for families have not been felt consistently by all families across the local area.

IMPROVEMENT PLAN GOING FORWARD

- 4.14 The areas for improvement are fully acknowledged both within the self-evaluation but also in the Strategic Vision and Priorities 2019-22 (Appendix 3) and its associated action plan, which align to the findings of the inspection report. Oversight of the action plan is undertaken by the SEND Governance Board, with scrutiny and challenge on the five key priorities at each meeting.
- 4.15 Since the inspection the SEND Leadership has been further strengthened with health provider organisations now represented on the SEND Governance Board.
- 4.16 Over the coming weeks, Bromley CCG and the Council will be taking the opportunity to carry out a range of engagement sessions with partners and providers, including two SEND Matters Live events, specifically for parent carers.
- 4.17 Bromley CCG and Bromley Council welcomed the inspection findings and the opportunity to evidence the hard work that we have collectively been putting into improving our services for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 4.18 Regardless of the inspection, delivery of the SEND Reform Programme in Bromley continues at pace. The inspection provided the local area with validation of where we are in our journey together and we fully accept the recommendations within the report.

5. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

- 5.1 The SEND reforms aims to help children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities to be aspirational about their future and achieve the best possible life outcomes.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS, BOARDS AND PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING ANY POLICY AND FINANCIAL CHANGES, REQUIRED TO PROCESS THE ITEM

6.1 SEND Governance Board oversees the SEND Action Plan and implementation of the SEND reforms. Regular reports are made to the Children’s Executive Board as part of the Board’s formal governance arrangements

7. COMMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, LB BROMLEY

Bromley Council, Bromley CCG and our partners are committed to ensuring that children and young people aged 0 to 25 years, who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, are well supported and empowered to lead full and rewarding lives.

It is reassuring to have the regulators’ validation of our progress and strengths and the areas for development we had already identified.

Comments are welcomed from the Health and Wellbeing Board on the progress being made to implement the SEND Reforms and further improve the services and support available to children and young people who have SEND and their families.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial, Legal implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – Ofsted and CQC Inspection Report• Appendix 2 – Focus for improvement summary• Appendix 3 – Strategic Vision and Priorities 2019-22 summary