

Briefing Note

SEND: now and moving forwards together

SEND local area stakeholder coproduction event

Purpose of the briefing

To provide summary feedback from the multi-stakeholder event held at the Ridgeway centre on 4 July 2024. This briefing is available to all delegates who attended the event, and for wider circulation to leaders of SEND. The aim is that the time and input of delegates before and at the event is used well to continue the journey all stakeholders ascribe to: continual improvement of SEND provision to the benefit of all children and young people (CYP) and their families.

Background

The event was attended by 125 delegates from five stakeholder groups: CYP, parents and carers, education, health and social care practitioners. The planned outcomes of the event were to: update the local area's self-evaluation against the criteria of the Ofsted handbook and framework for local area SEND inspections, identify gaps and actions which needed to be taken as a result of this, increase coproduction, access to information, and consensus across stakeholder groups, and ensure that the local area is well prepared for Ofsted inspection. The latter was seen as a vehicle for identification of what can be done to improve and not as the sole driver.

The key activities were:

- Pre-event self-evaluation forms for delegates to consult with partners and their teams so that they were able to come to the event to represent the views of others
- Pre-event preparation activities for CYP, their advocates and parents to enable them to consider their experiences of provision
- Review of the commitments to inclusion in the MK SEND Strategy
- Consideration of what is working well and what could be even better in support, provision, and practice for CYP with SEND
- Post event submission of detailed team self-evaluation forms (SEFs) by the three service areas of education, health and social care.

Outcomes

Commitments

All stakeholder groups agreed that the commitments to CYP should remain, but that the language should be reviewed and clearly include CYP from 0-25 years, and they should be used

and promoted more across services in day-to-day practice and in training. The comments have been collated and are available to delegates as an attachment to this briefing. SEND leaders will use the detail of the comments when reviewing each aspect of inclusion from individual commitments, for example, 'Make adjustments for me so that I feel included and as independent as possible'.

Celebration of what is working well

It was recognised that there are a lot of strengths in the local partnership. These included: the strong local ambition and high expectations for CYP with SEND, professionals that care about CYP and their families, partnership working across many services, mostly effective co-production with CYP and their families within formal meetings such as EHCP reviews and seeking the voice of CYP at every point, frequent pro-active early identification, focus on getting the right setting to meet needs, inclusion in mainstream primary schools, transitions at different stages, considering the holistic needs of CYP experiences to prepare CYP for life skills outside of school and preparation for adulthood.

These comments have also been collated and are available to delegates as attachments to this briefing in the form of celebrations for each of the ten areas of the local area self-evaluation form (SEF) and comments by delegates in a post-its activity on good things that are happening to meet needs and what they are thankful for.

What could be even better

While celebration is important as the local area wants to become even better at meeting needs the following areas were identified for improvement: even more pro-active early identification of need linked to further developed training, increasing the consistency of CYP being included in decision making, reviewing transition options, particularly for post-16, provision of more accessible resources for CYP who need them, better signposting to services and the local offer, ensuring that the universal, targeted and personalised offer is transparent and clear to parents and there is equity in the offer, improved sharing of data across services, strengthening of collaboration by and communication between all partners with common goals, the ongoing development of local area key performance indicators (KPIs) as well as the current measured action planning.

Stakeholder groups were asked to prioritise which areas for development were most important for them. The top priorities are outlined below.

Parents talked about wanting the following improvements: early identification and a perceived gap between primary and secondary school identification and proactivity, and services to meet needs.

Education practitioners prioritised the increased use of the Local Offer, increasing the voice of CYP alongside those of parents, and developing increased participation and partnership working with Children's Social Care practitioners in the Education and Health Care (EHC) planning processes. It is noted that the education outcomes for CYP with SEN support in the

secondary phase are below national for the same group of CYP over time, which needs to be addressed as a priority.

Health practitioners noted there needs to be an improvement in accurate assessments of needs, clearer pathways to services, access to health services, and increased transparency for parents between education and health services.

Social Care practitioners also recognised that there need to be ongoing improvements in early and timely identification and intervention, alongside a broader offer of support for young people. Transition was strongly highlighted from the early years to post 18 workplace and career pathways, with more training for employers. The transition of CYP with visual or hearing needs was also seen as essential. The lack of understanding of some partners and instances of bullying were seen as a concern.

Self-evaluation information collated during the event

Rich self-evaluation information was contributed and shared during the event. As a result a summary stakeholder SEF has been collated and is attached to this briefing.

Detailed self-evaluation forms of service area teams

These are being collated to use for in-depth self-evaluation of specific areas of SEND provision and practice. For example, they will be used by the SEND Strategy Transitions working party to update SEF Table 4. Preparation for next steps and outcomes.

Suggested next steps

1. Review the SEND Strategy commitments using stakeholder feedback as part of a planned refresh of the SEND Strategy. This could be undertaken by the SEND Strategy Inclusion working party.
2. Use the celebrations and improvements information to update the SEND local area SEF tables
3. Systematically collate the event and service area team SEFs. Identify key strengths and areas for improvement for the SEND local area SEF tables. The vast amount of information gained on each aspect of provision and practice should be used in a timed and planned way according to key priorities using the principle of 'taking time to get it right'.
4. Continue to review the experiences of CYP and their families using an individual case study/sampling method to gain deeper insight into provision and practice for different groups and needs e.g. those not in education, employment, or training (NEET), or CYP with SEN support in secondary schools.
5. Collate and analyse additional data on a wide range of outcomes across education, health and social care
6. Refresh the MK SEND Strategy

Recommendation

The reach and shared responsibilities of the local area are vast and complex. It is recommended that the detailed evidence for the ten aspects of the self-evaluation is systematically collated using a timetabled approach. This should be linked to areas for improvement identified for stakeholders. In this case, initial priorities should be Table 1: timely and accurate identification of needs, Table 4: preparation for next steps and strong outcomes (including outcomes of SEN support CYP in the secondary phase), and Table 9 and 10: commissioning to meet need, and multi-agency working.

Attachments

1. Commitments activity final feedback for all stakeholder groups
2. Let's celebrate our local area – what are we doing really well?
3. Delegate individual comments on quality of SEND provision in a post-its activity
4. Summary stakeholder SEF discussions by group