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## 1. Overview

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The on-going national lockdown has meant that we continue to have to flex and adapt our services. Since the last Programme Board in January 2021 there has been strong progress in the national vaccination campaign, particularly in Suffolk where, at the time of writing, approximately half of all adults have had a first vaccination.

Schools have returned providing a welcome change from home-schooling for many parents, while noting feedback throughout the C-19 period that some children have been more settled away from school.

Health staff sickness, staff shielding and redeployment has had an impact on the delivery of clinical services.

All services continue to do everything they can, under the circumstances, to continue to support all children, young people and families.

## 2. National Developments

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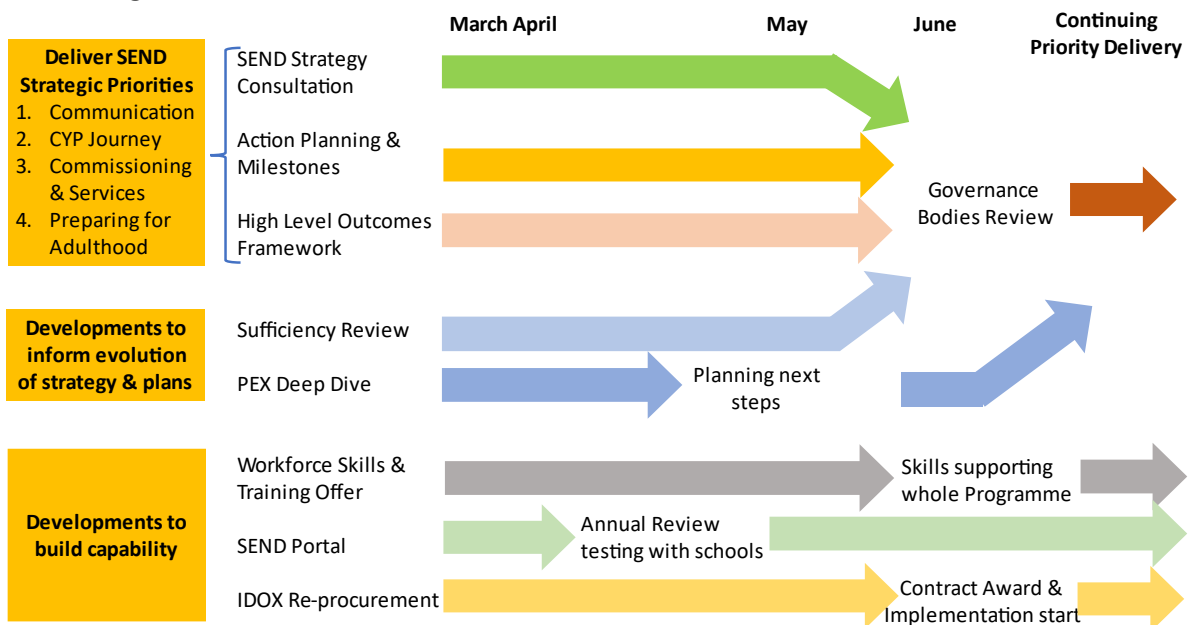
Vicky Ford MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families published an open letter [VF Open letter 5 March.pdf](#) to parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to highlight key information and support which is provided for children and young people with SEND as they returned to full attendance from 8/3/21. This included:

- If a child has been advised to shield because they are clinically extremely vulnerable, they should stay at home as much as possible until further notice and not attend their school or college. In these circumstances schools and colleges are required to provide remote education and work with parents and carers where adult support is required
- Provided an update on Testing and Face Coverings
- Referenced the one-off £302 million Recovery Premium for state primary and secondary schools will build on the Pupil Premium to further support pupils who need it most, including those with SEND, in the 21/22 academic year.
- Referenced Mental Health Support Teams in schools and colleges to provide early intervention will grow from the 59 set up by last March to around 400 by April 2023.

### 3. Recent Programme Activity

Alongside the focus on maintaining service provision, strategic work continues.

#### SEND Programme Near Term Deliverables



#### SEND Strategy 2021 - 2023

58 Consultation responses were received. these have been considered and incorporated into a revised Strategy on a page for approval by the SEND Programme Board

Work that has been undertaken with young people to gain their views on the Strategy and to co-produce a series of 'I' statements. These have been aligned with the strategic priorities. They will inform an important reference point for competing the action plan development and the development of a refreshed outcomes framework.

Development of co-produced SMART Action planning is underway for each of the 4 priorities

#### Outcomes Framework

Work has started to consider what will be needed from a new outcomes framework  
Greater focus on the young person's experience and the difference that SEND Services and wider support can be made to their day to day lives will be a key focus.

## **Programme Resources**

The last working day for Judith Mobbs, AD Inclusion and joint SRO will be 1 April 2021. A process to appoint a replacement AD is in progress.

We were unsuccessful in recruiting a SEND Programme Manager, but have been successful in recruiting a SEND Project Manager who will work alongside Graham Beamish to support the programme.

Fran Arnold, Head of Social Care Fieldwork will assume leadership of SEND Priority 4 – Preparing for Adulthood with Hannah Holder as deputy.

## **4. Key Highlights during this period**

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### **Communications**

#### Covid Support

There is a new Coronavirus page across the entire Infolink website providing latest updates, information and where to get advice and help: [Coronavirus Information Suffolk](#)

#### Promoting the Local Offer










The Local Offer Website continues to be regularly updated including new resources being added to team pages:

[Dyslexia](#)  
[SLCN Outreach](#)  
[Vision and Multisensory](#)

The requirements capture is underway across CYP and ACS for procurement of new website which will host the Local Offer (replacing the Infolink website). Key stakeholders are being contacted for input and a message has been sent to the School Head Teacher network for board representation.

### **QA work**

- The first 3 month cycle of the system-wide SEND Quality Development internal audit and moderation has been completed. From 2020 benchmark data to 2021, there have been improvements in the quality of the EHC Plan and in the EHC Needs Assessment Advice. These improvements have been supported by review of the advice templates and training delivered to all caseworkers

Type of Document	Internal Audit Score March 2020		Internal Audit Score Feb 2021	Variance since 2020
Final EHC Plan	16.4		17.8	+1.8
Final Amended EHC Plan	n/a		17.4	n/a
Annual Review Reports	n/a		13	n/a
Parent/CYP Advice	13		15	+2
Educational/Setting Advice	13		16	+3
Health/Medical Advice	7		11	+4
Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) Advice	12		18	+6
Occupational Therapy Advice	13		15	+2
Physiotherapy Advice	13		17	+4
Educational Psychology Advice	17		19	+2
Social Care	11		11	0

- The parallel external audit findings also track an improvement in the overall quality of both EHC Needs Assessment EHC Plans and the advice. There were notable increases in the SALT and Physiotherapy scores. Annual review paperwork was found to be lacking in detail which impacts on the quality of amended EHC Plans and, in some cases, where information has been provided, this is not being fully incorporated into the amended plans.

### Health provision

A joint piece of work has been commissioned by SCC and the CCG to develop a pathway to help improve system wide working for Tier 4 admissions – this includes early review of needs across health, social care and educational needs/SEN at the point of admission.

The Healthwatch ‘My Health, Our Future’ survey has been commissioned for 21/22 and it has been agreed to continue recurrently funding this valuable source of data for mental health and emotional wellbeing for CYP across Suffolk.

### CAMHS

- Thrive Champion training is fully developed and starts in April.
- The communication and training strategy has now been finalised to roll out across the system including both providers and parents, carers and families.
- Preparation is under way for a series of workshops in March 2021 which will determine the role of the Localities Teams in CYP groups based on age (0-5; 5-16; 16+), how

services will wrap around and particularly how mental health & emotional wellbeing services will work together to deliver the transformation and manage transitions between services.

- The Reasonable Adjustments Task & Finish Group is currently on a pause due to the pressure on services due to lockdown and will be revisited in March.
- Suffolk has been successful in previous rounds of site selection and currently has 4 Mental Health Support Teams in Suffolk either working in schools or being trained. These are in: Ipswich, Leiston, Thurston & Mildenhall. Our current coverage for this programme is at 29% - which is above the national target of 25% coverage. We have recently applied for funding for new sites for the next 3 years and await an outcome on this from NHSE. The sites chosen in Suffolk for this include Sudbury & Hadleigh (Y1); Framlingham and Stowmarket/Stowupland (y2) and Felixstowe (Y3).
- Whole school approach - a review of the 5 pilots across Suffolk is now underway, this will determine future options for commissioning support alongside the MHSTs and current psychology provision. It is intended that this will lead to a blended approach across Suffolk and the ability to work with schools to further embed inclusive mental health and EW support for all.
- A piece of work is underway to understand demand and capacity for CAMHS in Suffolk and the development of clear service specifications. This is to ensure needs are and can continue to be met. This will lead to a market testing exercise in July for the CYP service areas of the current CAMHS contract – excluding specialist services.
- Current waiting lists for Autism and ADHD are being supported through some additional short term funding arrangements with NSFT (weekend and evening clinics, additional admin support). Other options are also being explored.

#### Neurodevelopmental Pathway development:

- The procurement process for support to the neuro pathway is underway – panels are scheduled for May with a view to commissioning provision for operational go live in July.
- The co-ordination function for the pathway is due to be implemented in July and the commissioners are working closely with NSFT to ensure this is on track.

#### **Update re SEND specialist provision developments.**

##### New units

The table below indicates the new units due to open in September 2021.

Work Package for 2021	Capital Work Required	Reception /KS1	Communication and Interaction KS2	Cognition and Learning KS2	Communication and Interaction KS3/4	Cognition and Learning KS3/4
<b>New Units for 2021</b>						
Copleston High School	Yes				18 places	
Exning Primary School, Newmarket	Yes	12 places				
St Edmunds, Bury St Edmunds	Yes	12 places-tbc		18 places		
Saxmundham Free School	Yes				18 places	18 places
Mendlesham	Yes			18 places		
Stowupland High School	Yes					18 places
Woodhall Primary Sudbury	Yes		18 places			
Chantry Academy	Yes					18 places
Beccles Free School	Yes					18 places
Oulton Broad Primary	Yes	12 places				

Some units face delays due to the impact of Covid and the challenges on site Monthly meetings are being held with the respective schools and colleagues in the Schools Infrastructure Team to ensure any challenges can be addressed promptly and more frequently where interim arrangements are being considered.

New Unit	Status	Earliest on-site	Interim Arrangements from Sept 21 (Post agenda update)
St Edmunds	Diocese led project with advice and guidance from SCC. Issues around providing the required number of parking spaces on a constrained site. Meeting with Highways has taken place to discuss possible solutions. Planning approval may now be delayed due	Jan 22	No interim options with St Edmunds. Work being undertaken with Riverwalk School to support a number of cyp who would have been considered for these units.

	to the moratorium. SCC Planning Officer is trying to get the application to committee prior to the moratorium.		
Chantry	Design agreed. Pre Planning consultation to commence on the 22nd March.	Jan 22	Working towards using the Murrayside Centre in the interim, with staff coming across from Chantry to ensure cyp are supported appropriately.
Oulton Broad	Very constrained site. Discussion with East Suffolk about some adjacent land that they own are underway.	Jan 22	Working alongside Councillor Rivett to identify any potential interim solutions, although limited options locally.

#### New Schools (no change to status)

**C&I School Ipswich** – This is being led by the DfE. The DfE anticipate lodging their planning application at Easter 2021. There are some site access issues that the DfE still need to resolve. School Infrastructure colleagues are actively pursuing the DfE for further clarification.

**SEMH Bury** - New School on Moreton Hall adjacent to First Base and Abbots Green. Planning permission has been submitted.

**C&I School Bungay** – Construction started in January 2021 with handover in July 2021.

**Chalk Hill** - SCC has supported the School with a CIF (Condition Improvement Fund) bid. SCC will contribute £2,400,000 for the additional places created while the CIF bid will pay for pre-existing condition works.

## **5. Overall Priority Project Areas Progress**

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The overall rating for the SEND programme is **GREEN**.

**Priority 1** is **GREEN** and on track in most areas – provision of timely and effective information and support to families continues to be the priority, especially during COVID. Good reach is being achieved. Focus on community accessibility still needed.

**Priority 2** is reporting as **GREEN**, good progress being made in most areas. Focus on annual COVID related work continues – risk assessments and clearing review backlogs.

**Priority 3** remains **AMBER**, although good progress being made in key areas of transformation – neuro and locality mental health transformation. All health work is being reviewed to ensure critical and front line services can continue to run.

**Priority 4** is **GREEN** good progress continues in all areas, concerns over further lockdown impact on YP and progression.

## **6. Focus for coming period**

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To increase the flow of relevant, meaningful communications to children, young people and families to keep people informed and to signpost helpful resources and services

To finalise more detailed and specific action planning underpinning the delivery of the SEND Strategy 2021 -2023

To develop the SEND Sufficiency Refresh for 2021

To develop a refreshed Outcomes Framework to more meaningfully measure the impact of our work and to prompt system-wide response where needs are not being met