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| Presented by | Lianne Nunn – SRO Clinical Commissioning Groups |
| Author       | Graham Beamish                                  |
| Purpose      | For Information                                 |
| Date         | May 2021  |

## **1. Recent Programme Activity**

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### **SEND Strategy 2021 - 2023**

A Cabinet Paper reflecting on the achievements of the SEND Strategy 2017-2020, the on-going challenges and the key priorities and objectives for supporting all children and young people with SEND is due to go to SCC Cabinet on 15 June. This is an item on the Programme Board Agenda.

### **Risk Register**

The risk register was reviewed in the Priority Leads meeting. Key risks are

- Emotional Wellbeing Hub (E&W Suffolk) has been in crisis with a substantial waiting list. A plan with additional resources from a range of services to address this is underway.
- At the end of May some families have not been advised of specialist school placements for individual children from September 2021. Children, families, professionals, and SENDIASS have shared concerns that this is reducing preparation time for transition and will affect appeals, tribunals, a potential increase in complaints and transport. Communication to families has not been timely. This is an item on the Programme Board Agenda.
- Potential £3m High Needs Funding overspend this year from a combination of revenue top up for existing and new placements and Post 16 SEMH Programmes

### **Outcomes Framework**

Work is progressing on a new Outcomes Framework that will better help us understand, and act on, children and families lived experiences and progress towards outcomes.

### **Bid to MHCLG to join up SEND Data**

The Suffolk Office of Data Analytics (Michaela Breilmann) has submitted a bid to join up SEND Data in partnership with Essex County Council and University of Essex. This proposes *“to join up EH&C data, both activity and financial, at individual level for all 0-25s with SEN needs....we want to create a sophisticated local understanding of current and future demand, which could be used to inform policy design, service delivery and commissioning”* The Awards decision is in June 2021.

### **Programme Resources**

Wendy Allen has joined as SEND Project Manager in support of Graham Beamish who has been providing part-time Programme Management support to the programme. Wendy will have capacity to support the SEND Programme Board and Priority leads to implement and realise the benefits of the SEND Strategy

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

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### **Promoting the Local Offer**

Page content on the Local Offer has been drafted for review by SPCN for a range of emotional wellbeing mental health services. Further work is scheduled re the Eating Disorders team and Connect Service

4 Supplier demos for the new Local Offer Website. The target is go live in November 2021

A new social media management tool has been purchased through SEND Reform Grant provide far superior reporting to allow us to target channels that are most popular with families

### **Continuous Professional Development**

The revised SEND training programme has been finalised to show the training levels needed to be worked through progressively depending on level. The new programme includes information for practitioners on what yp say makes the ideal worker

### **Activities Unlimited Service review**

The AU service has completed a full service review and is now remodelling in preparation for final DMT approval later in the year. A new self- assessment form has been built on Liquid Logic. This new form has been co-produced with a range of expert stakeholders and

now captures a wider range of needs that the previous one, hosted on the AU website, didn't. The new system will also create efficiencies within the service as it will reduce manual process whilst ensuring an audit of workflow is available. This will help to manage resource and growth. Alongside this we are developing a new offer of personal budgets with a tiered model of 6 levels ranging from £200 to £1200. The intention is to offer a more equitable and accurate offer for families. The self-assessment form is now live and parents have been asked to complete it via a portal to help us to not only collect the data we need to determine the personal budgets values for the next financial year but also to further co-produce and develop the form. The new model will be fully launched for the next financial year.

### **Redesign of Specialist Education Services**

This has been completed and is being communicated to stakeholders across the system.

The impact of the redesign includes:

- Aligns resources with the 4 broad areas of need set out within the SEND Code of Practice, with an increased and more coherent offer
  - Cognition and Learning, incorporating the newly named Specific Learning Difficulties Team (formerly DOT)
  - Communication and Interaction Service, incorporating the SLCN Outreach
  - SEMH
  - Physical, Sensory, Medical, incorporating HI, VI, MSI and the SpLSAs
- Strengthens capacity to support whole school inclusion, enabling more CYP to have their needs understood and met, thereby reducing case escalations and exclusions.
- Implement the recommendations of the MAAP review in developing our core offer to schools to support children through a graduated response and the SEND consultation process. We are now developing our next steps in the graduated response at Stage Three and managing the children that have already been referred for a MAAP assessment. Whilst this process embeds, we will be suspending referrals into the MAAP from April 2021.

### **Mental Health Pathways**

New improved mental health pathways have been co-designed with users and key stakeholders. Work is well underway on demand and capacity across the system to enable commissioning decisions to meet critical service demand and to fill gaps in provision.

### **Support for Neuro-developmental Needs**

Evaluation of the tenders is underway in for VCS delivery of support for families where young people have Neuro-developmental conditions.

**DCYP Review and Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) role**

A 3 month review of the Disabled Children & Young Persons Review is underway, led by Fran Arnold, in response to and in preparation for a landscape of change. A comprehensive scoping exercise, mapped out in collaboration with stakeholders, has confirmed the parameters of the DCYP review. As part of this programme of change work it is also underway the development of a Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) role.

**Expanding Post 16 Provision for SEND**

We are commissioning two providers to deliver Post 16 SEMH Programmes to addresses the current gaps in provision. The programmes will be delivered in the South, North and West of Suffolk from September 2021. Each of the groups will initially be commissioned for 6 places but there will be the potential for them to grow to 12.

**Update on SEND specialist provision developments.**New units

The table below indicates the new units that are/were due to open in September 2021.

| <b>New Units for 2021</b>        | <b>Capital Work Required</b> | <b>Reception /KS1</b> | <b>Communication and Interaction KS2</b> | <b>Cognition and Learning KS2</b> | <b>Communication and Interaction KS3/4</b> | <b>Cognition and Learning KS3/4</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 |  |           |  |           |
| The Ashley School    | Yes |           |  | 12 places |  |           |

Some units face delays due to the impact of Covid and challenges on-site. There are risks in the supply chain. We are experiencing longer lead in times on certain products and difficulty obtaining sufficient quantities of others. For projects which have a contract awarded we receive monthly cost reports. 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, Bury St Edmunds | This is a Diocese delivered project. Planning permission has now been granted. The Diocese have put the project out to tender. The work requires an 8 month construction period. The building work will complete at the end of February 2022. | Easter 2022 for KS2 C&L<br><br>September 2022 for R/KS1                    | Outreach work will take place from Feb 2022 to aid transition<br><br>Opening date now moved to next academic year.<br><br>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. |
| Chantry                     | A main contractor for the site has been appointed. (In addition to the SEND works the School is expanding) The site master planning work is complete. The SEND Unit construction is due to complete on site in December 2021.                 | Jan 22 (Unit will open at Murrayside Sept 2021 – at Chantry from Jan 2022) | Working towards using the Murrayside Centre in the interim, with staff coming across from Chantry to ensure cyp are supported appropriately.   |

|                            |  |                          |   |
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| Oulton Broad Primary       | Very constrained site. We explored some land owned by East Suffolk to relocate part of the car park to enable the SEND unit to be built at the front of the School. The land was very bio-diverse and was ruled out. Instead, through Concertus, we are in negotiations to purchase some privately owned land opposite the School. The car park will require Planning Permission however the Unit itself will be permitted development.  | Jan 22<br>September 2022 | Unit will now be opening in the next academic year September 2022 |
| Woodhall Primary (Sudbury) | The contract for work has been awarded. There has been a Pre Start meeting with the School. To create the SEND Unit we are extending the School building. Work to the SEND unit is due to complete at October half term. There is an additional project on this site to create a MUGA as required in the disposal of the former Middle School site.  | October 2021             | Outreach work to take place prior to opening                      |
| Saxmundham                 | This is a Trust delivered project. We have been notified by the Trust that tenders came back higher than cost estimates. They have also had to undertake some re-design due to obtain Planning Permission. The Trust are working with Ingleton Wood to value engineer the project. This has caused some delays. However the Trust are confident that they can accommodate pupils for a short period of time in existing accommodation and are pushing for works to be completed in October 2021. | October 2021             | School to use existing accommodation                              |
| Mendlesham                 | The Trust have now picked up this project. They have instructed Greyling Thomas Architects. The Trust are pushing for completion as close to the start of term as possible.  |                          |   |

### New Schools

**C&I School Ipswich** – This is being led by the DfE. The DfE have submitted a Pre Planning application to Ipswich Borough Council. Bowmer and Kirkland acting on behalf of the DfE have requested Pre Application advice from Suffolk Highways. The intention is to create vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access from Russet Road. The DfE programme shows a

completion date of the end of December 2022. We are working with the Trust to find a suitable interim measure. At present we are looking either at space in Ipswich Academy or Murrayside Community Centre.

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

**Castle East (C&I School Bungay)** – Construction started in January 2021. At a recent progress meeting the Contractor advised that the programme is showing a delayed completion of the end of August 2021. As a result a meeting has been set up to agree interim arrangements should they be needed.

**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.

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### 3. Overall Priority Project Areas Progress

The overall rating for the SEND programme is **GREEN**. It is early stages for the new action plans at a time when the service is very busy

**Priority 1** is **GREEN** Plans are in place to increase understanding of the SEND system through the use of animations and accessible communications. Good communications reach is being achieved.

**Priority 2** is **GREEN** for embedding QA system, SEND Roles across the system and plans in place to make the SEND Journey clearer. The operational, rather than programme, issue of the advising of SEND placements needs swift resolution

**Priority 3** is **AMBER** as the health system particularly retains significant focus on C-19. Progress is being made in key areas of transformation – neuro and locality mental health transformation.

**Priority 4** is **GREEN** with plans in place.

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### 4. Focus for coming period

To move to the next stage of measures for a refreshed Outcomes Framework that will better help us understand, and act on, children and families lived experiences and progress towards outcomes

Review of SEND specialist places allocation process

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 develop the SEND Sufficiency Refresh for 2021

## **Appendices**

### **Programme Board Priority 1**

#### **Promoting the Local Offer**

Our website analytics remained high for March and April with a combined total of 3,037 unique visitors.

We also reached a combined 19,707 post views across our social media channels for the same period. We have purchased a new social media tool Orlo, with the SEND grant which allows for scheduling, monitoring, responding and analytical reporting of the Local Offer and Activities Unlimited social media channels.

Weekly comms on Facebook and Twitter promoting team pages on the Local Offer to broaden awareness of services available in SEND. The posts are tagged #TeamPageTuesday - [https://twitter.com/hashtag/TeampageTuesday?src=hashtag\\_click](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TeampageTuesday?src=hashtag_click)

#### **Local Offer Website updates**

- Page content has been drafted for review by SPCN for a range of emotional wellbeing mental health services. These include Suffolk Wellbeing, Mental Health in Schools, the Emotional Wellbeing Hub, LD CAMHS, youth CAMHS and ADHD- due to be finalised by the end May and can then be published.
- Further work is scheduled re the Eating Disorders team and Connect Service
- The specialist provision plan has been updated on website, providing UpToDate information about the opening dates for new education provisions.

#### **Website Platform**

- 4 Supply demos have taken place showcasing how providers meet the requirements for the website. One provider not looking like they meet requirements sufficiently. Clarification questions are going back to some of the suppliers. Another provider can't provide an ofsted feed, so this would need consideration as would then need to be procured separately if this provider were used.
- The new AU self-assessment form is live on the AU website, the link will be available via the new look local offer website when that becomes available. Short



break content and activity details will move across to the new website. It will give parents a portal to access to complete the online self-assessment form and will also have a function where we can correspond with families through a messaging service and families can upload documents into the LL system.

#### CPD

- The revised SEND training programme is due to be finalised by Mid May. Comms are being planned for this. Further additions have been made to the brochure to show that the training levels need to be worked through progressively. The new programme includes information for practitioners on what yp say makes the ideal worker- comms are underway to yp to let them know how we are using the information they have given us about this.
- A first meeting has been held with Community Action Suffolk planning how to better reach some of the community groups re raising SEND awareness, including various newsletters that go out from CAS as well as potentially joining some of the zoom calls they do with groups, which are generally well attended

**YP Engagement-** Work has just started in East Bergholt and Westbourne High School re yp engagement and awareness raising about the local offer, following delay caused by COVID. Work scheduled in further settings over the coming weeks

#### Good news

AU are now reaching 5000 families which is more than ever before. 2000 of which are in receipt of a personal budget. Nearly 1400 of these have chosen a pre paid card.

The team have made over 1300 renewal personal budget payments since the second week of April 21 and continue to work hard to make sure the rest of the payments are made.

Families are continuing to spend their budgets in flexible and creative ways to suit their individual short break needs.

We are supporting the roll out of the Holiday Activities Fund by offering the fund to our providers to put on extra school holiday activities for CYP who are eligible for free school meals.

School holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap - with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities; more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health; and more likely to experience social isolation.

Evidence suggests that in response to this issue the provision of free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people and that they work best when they provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities, for more than just breakfast or lunch, and when they involve children (and parents) in food preparation. This is why the Government has rolled out the programme nationally making £220m of funding available to local authorities across the country.

The budget allocated to Suffolk for 2021 is in excess of £2.1m. Our goal is to look at funding provisions to provide activity clubs during any of the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays of 2021. For SEND children, the HAF team at SCC are working with Activities Unlimited, to try to establish appropriate provision and to disseminate the offer to users. We are proposing a two stage approach to administration: We will be opening a Grant application/proposal process from Weds 12<sup>th</sup> May, which will invite providers to apply for HAF funding. Once provision is agreed, a digital user programme of HAF funded services, suitable for children with SEND will be created and sent directly to all eligible users within the AU membership. We will also be looking to publish the user programme and programme guidelines to ensure that the offer is well promoted across the SEND community. The outline budget for SEND support within Suffolk HAF 2021 is in the region of £200k.

Launch of Instagram account with yp  
Launch of WFD programme

## **Priority 2 The Child/Young Person's Journey**

Plans are in place for the initial stages of reviewing all documents and processes to include stakeholders to provide transparency for processes, responsibilities, and expectations around the local offer and statutory assessments.

Work is underway to understand the equivalent in Care & Health Services for Education's Graduated Response. And to share this understanding for all stakeholders. Health provides many services and are not structure in such a way that lends itself to be comparable.

An identified need is to ensure that there is greater understanding in that accessing services does not have to be sequential, services can be accessed at different levels.

Locality and Partnership colleagues are being approached to ascertain support in creating SEND Friendly communities.

Work continues with colleagues in Health to review statutory assessments and reviews to see if these can be aligned to ensure all reviews are undertaken at the same time for maximum impact and effect.

Quality Assurance is into its second cycle and reporting is due soon, at present the process has identified an upward trajectory for quality of EHCP's and advice given. Further development is required to gather parent, carer and CYP view to inform the QA process.

A review is due to commence in June-21 to review the Specialist Education Panel.

The Deputy Designated Care Officer for Health has been established, work is now commencing on how we will evaluate their effectiveness.

SEND Champions in health have been identified and will provide local expert advice for the local health care system to spread good practice.

*Written by Wendy Allen*

*Pending Approval by Tracy Winwood 20/05/2021*

### Priority 3 – Commissioning & Services

The SEND Sufficiency Plan will need to be drafted over the coming months; we have considerable information to inform for Education Services, and to some extent for Care services. The information required to inform the plan from Health is currently delayed due to the pressures of Covid-19.

Monthly meetings have been established between Suffolk County Council (SCC) & Suffolk Parent Carer Network (SPCN) these will support reviewing gaps in service to inform the ongoing review of service need and provision.

The SEND Capital Programme continues at pace to deliver capacity for additional specialist education provision.

An area of concern is the C&I Ipswich school which will not be ready to hand over until 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, this is a Department of Education led project. Inclusion team are meeting to discuss contingency plans to be communicated shortly.

The development of an equivalent plan for residential provision for children in care to provide sufficiency to meet increasing need (small numbers) and improve the quality of residential provision is recommended.

SCC have not been able to confirm all specialist school placements for September 2021. An update is required to understand the number of young people affected and communication with parents is essential.

New improved mental health pathways have been co-designed with users and key stakeholders. Work is well underway on demand and capacity across the system to enable commissioning decisions to meet critical service demand and to fill gaps in provision. The mental health teams in schools are being expanded. Funding has been secured and sites have been identified as Stowmarket/Stowupland, Sudbury/Hadleigh and Framlingham. This will increase the coverage across all schools in Suffolk to 49% once implemented.

Evaluation of the tenders is underway in for VCS delivery of support for families where young people have Neuro-developmental conditions.

A Disabled Children & Young Persons Review and a Review of Activities Unlimited Short Breaks service are underway. These reviews will assist in identifying the gaps in provision against what the need is for short breaks/respite.

*Drafted by Wendy Alen*

*Pending Approval by Garry Joyce*

#### Priority 4 Preparing for Adulthood

Accreditation programme is currently being explored for practitioners so that a person-centred transition planning becomes the lived experience of young people and their families. Learning Together transitions courses are currently in process of gathering subject experts. These courses will see families empowered to access the support they need at the right time for their young person.

Linked in with priority 1 the communication plan to inform young people and their families on post 16 transition guide will start in July 2021.

Post 16 provider has been selected and is finalising Service Level Agreements are in process. This new provider will work with small groups of post 16 young people who have extreme anxiety, severe autism and or challenging behaviour. Provision will be in place to cover the South, West and North of Suffolk for September 2021.

The Health passport has been explored and a review has taken place to explore good practice in other areas. A key challenge has been identified in the Health Passport being kept up to date, therefore it is now being based on an extension of the digital shared care record.

A training programme is being developed to build and embed understanding of the Mental Capacity Act within Social Care. Social Work frontline teams are engaging in levels 1-4 training appropriate to their role.

Short Breaks are currently an area of review, this will need to have taken place before further work can be undertaken to develop service areas and evaluate the distribution of grant investment.

*Drafted by Wendy Allen*

*Approved by Fran Arnold*