

Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) for SEND

**SEND Programme Board
July 2022**

Dr Jack Walker (DClinPsy)

Designated Clinical Officer (DCO)

- Each Integrated Care Board (ICB; formerly Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)) should have a Designated Medical Officer (DMO) or Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) for SEND
- DCO plays a key role in implementing and embedding the SEND reforms and in supporting joined up working between health services, local authorities and other SEND partners
- Key responsibilities of the DCO role:
 - Ensure oversight of health needs and provision
 - Coordination role in terms of service providers and partner organisations
 - Strategic role within joint commissioning of services and the local area participation and engagement strategy

SNEE ICB DCO Team

- 1 F/T DCO (Clinical Psychologist)
- 1 F/T Deputy DCO (School Nurse)
- 1 P/T Deputy DCO (SLT)

Our three local alliances

230,556



344,553

412,068

Four Pillars of Practice

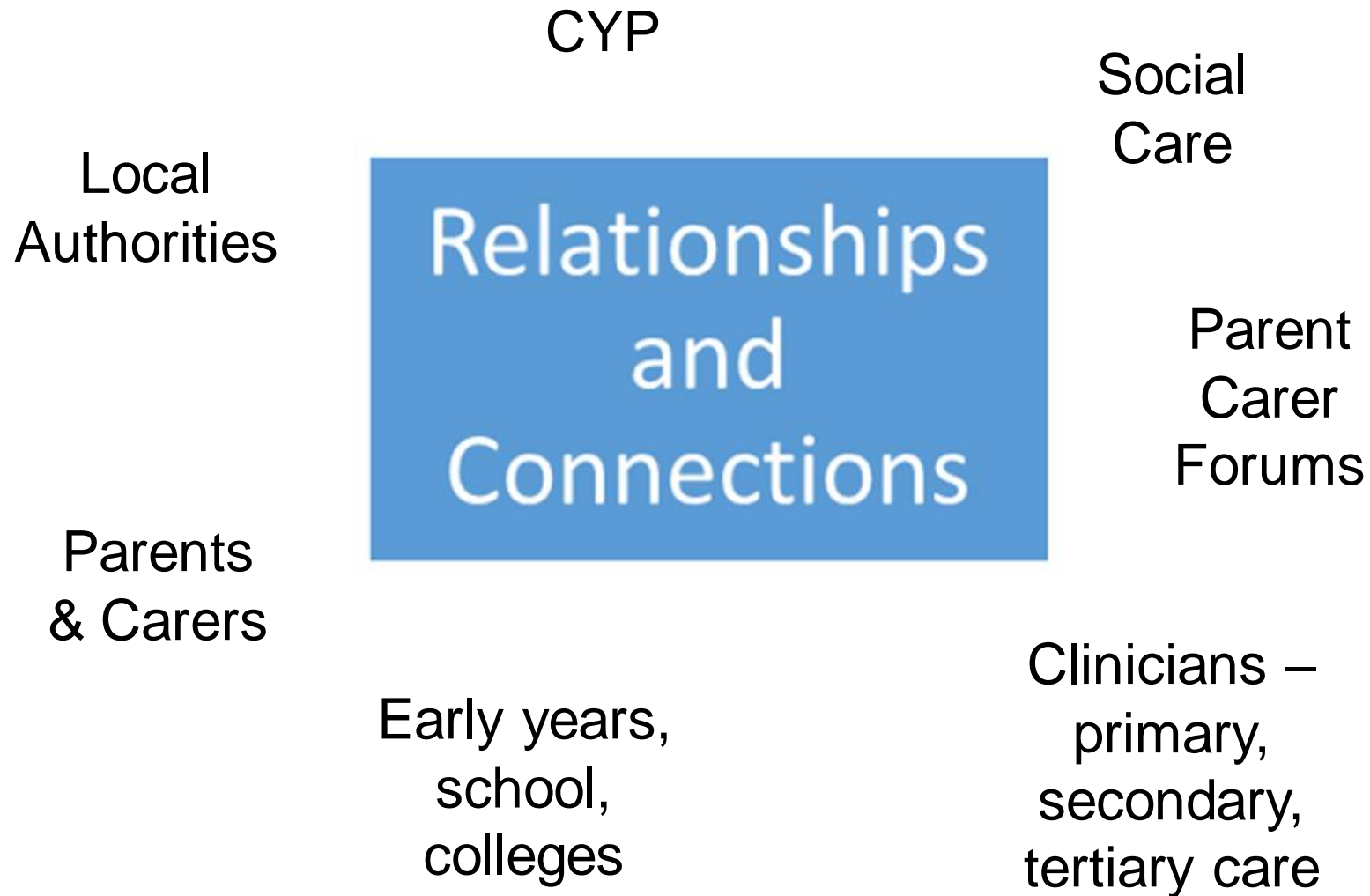
Based upon DCO/DMO Handbook & developing guidance from Council for Disabled Children (CDC)

Relationships
and
Connections

Strategy and
Leadership

Advisory Role

Governance
Policy and
Practice



- Supporting and leading the ICB with any relevant inspections, including SEND CQC & Ofsted inspections/revisits
 - Essex Revisit – Quality of Plans Focus Group
- Strategic oversight and leadership of the development, formal auditing and monitoring of all processes and requirements to ensure the local area meets all its statutory requirements
 - LD Health checks
- Preparing information and ensuring that there is a point of contact for local authorities, schools and colleges seeking health advice on children and young people who may have SEN or disabilities
 - Will be attending the Special School Heads meeting in next Academic year

Advisory Role

- Advice and support to ICBs, LA's, Health colleagues, social care, parents/carers
- Latest research evidence and implications for practice
- Health matters relevant to SEND e.g. statutory timescales, content of health advice for EHCP
 - Advice writers' templates
- Provide information and advice relating to the ongoing development and review of the Local Offer
- SEND datasets – supporting the establishment of robust data which will inform local area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
 - Ongoing work in Suffolk

- Ensure that health components of SEND policy and procedures are updated and communicated
- Identifying gaps and system solutions
 - Timely completion of relevant Health advice and reports for statutory EHC needs assessment
 - Attendance at EHCNA panel
- Establish and monitor a quality assurance framework for health involvement in the EHCP process
 - EHCP QA Board
 - Trial bringing together EHCP AR's and Continuing Care AR's
- Monitor compliance of ICBs & NHS Trusts in their responsibilities to inform the appropriate local authority if they identify a child under compulsory school age as having, or probably having, SEN or a disability (Section 23 of the Children and Families Act 2014)

Looking to the future

- Utilising the data from our SEND health dashboard as evidence for the Suffolk SEND KPI's
 - Workforce development across the health (and wider) system re SEND knowledge, systems and statutory processes
 - Revising and updating the health advice writers guidance/templates for Suffolk EHC Needs Assessment process
 - ICB oversight of Sections C and G of the EHCP, when plan is a working draft
 - Drop-ins and regular catch ups with a wider range of stakeholders
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