

**EDUCATION SEND GROUP  
REPORT TO FORUM  
FOR PRESENTATION  
AT FORUM ON 12 July 2021**

**Date of Virtual meeting: 24 June 2021 - Brief Summary of Items Discussed**

- **Matters' Arising** – Face to face interactions with community therapists can now take place 'where essential'. The waiting time for the Statutory Assessment Service (SAS) now stands at 70 weeks, with nearly 500 children waiting; it is hoped that plans to buy additional capacity from the private sector will significantly reduce these figures.
- **Out-of-Borough Payments to Post-16 Colleges and Independent and Private Providers (Steve Fenton)** - A number of trends were identified from the data, including a recent shift from lower cost local college provision into much higher cost more specialist post-16 provision; placements at the ARC suite of schools represent the sector of need identified for Solihull's new ASD school; placements at a number of private (non-specialist) schools are responding to the needs of academically able ASD pupils who are unable to cope with large school settings; some placements represent 'failure demand' ie. escalating spend due to the failure of previous placements. A range of initiatives were discussed, including the potential for local colleges to offer a broader curriculum with courses that might be more suited to this cohort of young people and greater involvement with the local employment sector around apprenticeships and supported internships. These discussions will be pursued further at a later date.
- **SEND Priorities Presentation (Charlotte Jones)** - CJ presented a discussion paper which gives early consideration to the overarching priorities to be included in the planned SEND/Additional Needs Strategy. The document will be widely shared, including through Headlines, and stakeholders were invited to feed back their comments.
- **New Inclusion Service Verbal Update (Charlotte Jones)** - The new Service will be formed as part of the Reshaping Education agenda and CJ explained the principles behind it. The Service will provide additional support to help 'SEND Support' pupils engage and learn; add capacity to embed areas such as the graduated approach and early intervention; include the English as an Additional Language (EAL), Children Missing Education (CME) and Elective Home Education (EHE) teams and will operate on a locality basis.
- **Alternative Provision Strategy (Michele Sadler)** - MS presented a pre-consultation discussion paper, setting out a number of options for stakeholders to consider and comment on before the end of term. A draft AP Strategy will be presented to Cabinet Member in early September, followed by a formal consultation.
- **SEND School Place Commissioning Strategy (Ann Pearson)** - AP presented an updated edition of the Strategy which is under formal consultation this term. AP stressed the importance of ensuring the Strategy reflects Solihull's priorities and ensures we have the right provision in the right location at the right time for the right children, whilst offering best value.
- **START Team Verbal Update (Amanda Hana)** – Compliance with the 20-week legal limit for processing new assessments has been over 70% for the past three months and the backlog of cases has been significantly reduced. Additional staff have been recruited to manage the backlog of Annual Reviews; these are expected to be caught up within twelve months. A review of Annual Review paperwork will shortly commence, followed by a review of EHCP application forms which are currently felt to be repetitive and time consuming to complete. Training sessions for setting Smart Outcomes are taking place and SENCo attendance at Panel meetings has proved to be very positive.
- **Early Years Strategy Verbal Update (Lisa Morris)** - The team is awaiting a report from the Early Intervention Foundation which will feed into the EY Strategy. In the meantime, a number of work groups are looking at all aspects of EY work - SEND, data, workforce, transitions and communications. It is expected that the draft Strategy will be available for consultation in September.

- **Part-time Timetables (Bev Petch)** - For some time the LA has struggled to have oversight of the use of PTTT which has legal compliancy requirements. Following feedback from a T&F meeting held to agree how the process can be formalised, BP is in the process of updating the pro-forma and guidance documents and producing example Reintegration Plans. The new arrangements will be launched in September.
- **Any Other Business** - It was agreed to continue to hold EdSEND meetings virtually using the MS Teams platform, with the aim of holding one in-person meeting during the 2021-22 academic year.

LM/AMc  
30.6.21

*Full minutes of the meeting can be requested from Ali McWilliam [amcwilliam@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:amcwilliam@solihull.gov.uk)*