

Solihull SEND Update

Schools Forum
12th July 2021

Focus in 2020-21



Progress to date

1. Improving mainstream inclusion:

- Inclusion Programme Board set up with multi-agency representation;
- Inclusion Managers and SENCO Barriers to Inclusion survey undertaken;
- Inclusion Strategy development underway (working groups held during May/June);
- Early Years strategy development underway

2. Increasing LA capacity:

- New and experienced Head of SEND, StART Service Manager and SEND Operations Manager all in post;
- Recruitment under way to increase StART and EP capacity in line with EHCP growth;
- Completion of SEND self-evaluation audit for the Council and CCG to understand areas of good practice and development needed;
- Launched a termly SEND Newsletter and subscription portal to ensure consistency of messages across the Borough

3. Timely assessment and review:

- Revised EHCP template published and expectations set around plan content;
- Revised documents and processes aligned to the EHCP assessment and review process – including the role of the SEND panels;
- Revised StART team structure and processes to improve plans issued within 20 weeks (now at 70% for third consecutive month);
- Additional resource allocated to provide capacity to address annual review backlog (from August 2021);
- Liquid Logic casework management system implemented

4. Increasing specialist provision:

- Expansion of maintained special school provision;
- Development of Mill Lodge Primary ARP for September 2021 (for autism and learning needs) and SISS Intervention Resource Provision at Coleshill Heath School for October 2021 (for primary aged children with social, emotional and mental health needs);
- Advancing plans for the new autism free special school – with provision being made from September 2022;
- Provision for excluded children from 6th day commissioned through Solihull Academy from September 2021;
- Alternative Provision strategy discussion underway with a draft expected next term

5. Spending money to make the most impact:

- Introduced process for the consideration, and commissioning, of independent placements;
- Introduced Provider Contracts and Individual Placement Agreements for children and young people attending independent provision to ensure value for money;
- Clarified processes for allocating funding to settings as part of the EHCP process;
- Additional funding allocated to COVID recovery, Emotionally Based School Attendance pathway and YEF project to divert vulnerable children away from criminal activity

6. Targeting support for children:

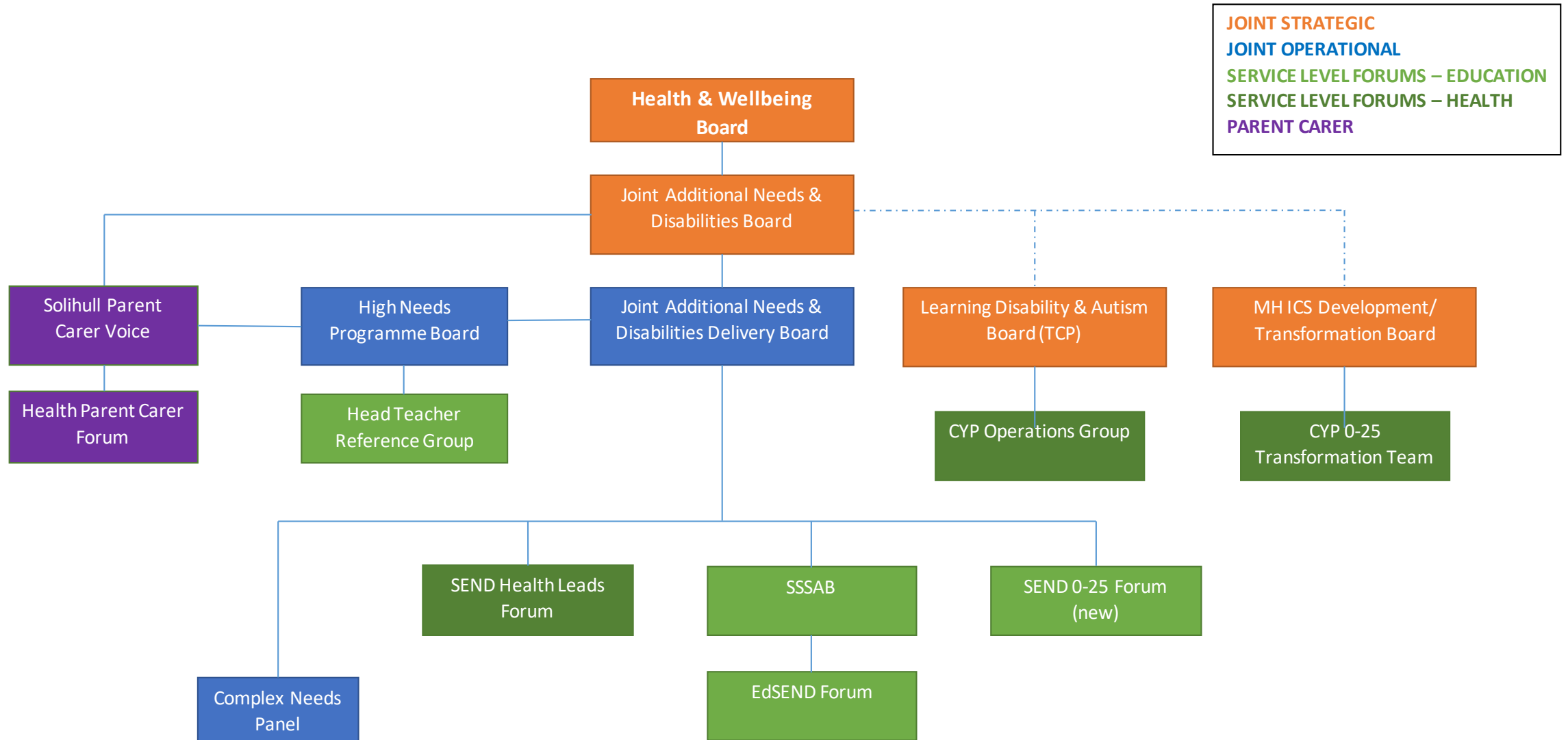
- Reshaping education consultation launched within the Council to improve offer of support at point of early identification – with revised services in place for September 2022;
- Designing virtual platforms to enable effective interventions and assessments for children and young people remotely;
- Development of multi-agency Delivery Board to oversee SEND Improvement Journey and monitor outcomes for children and young people;
- Revising our policy for children and young people with medical needs – with publication early next term

7. Improving parental confidence:

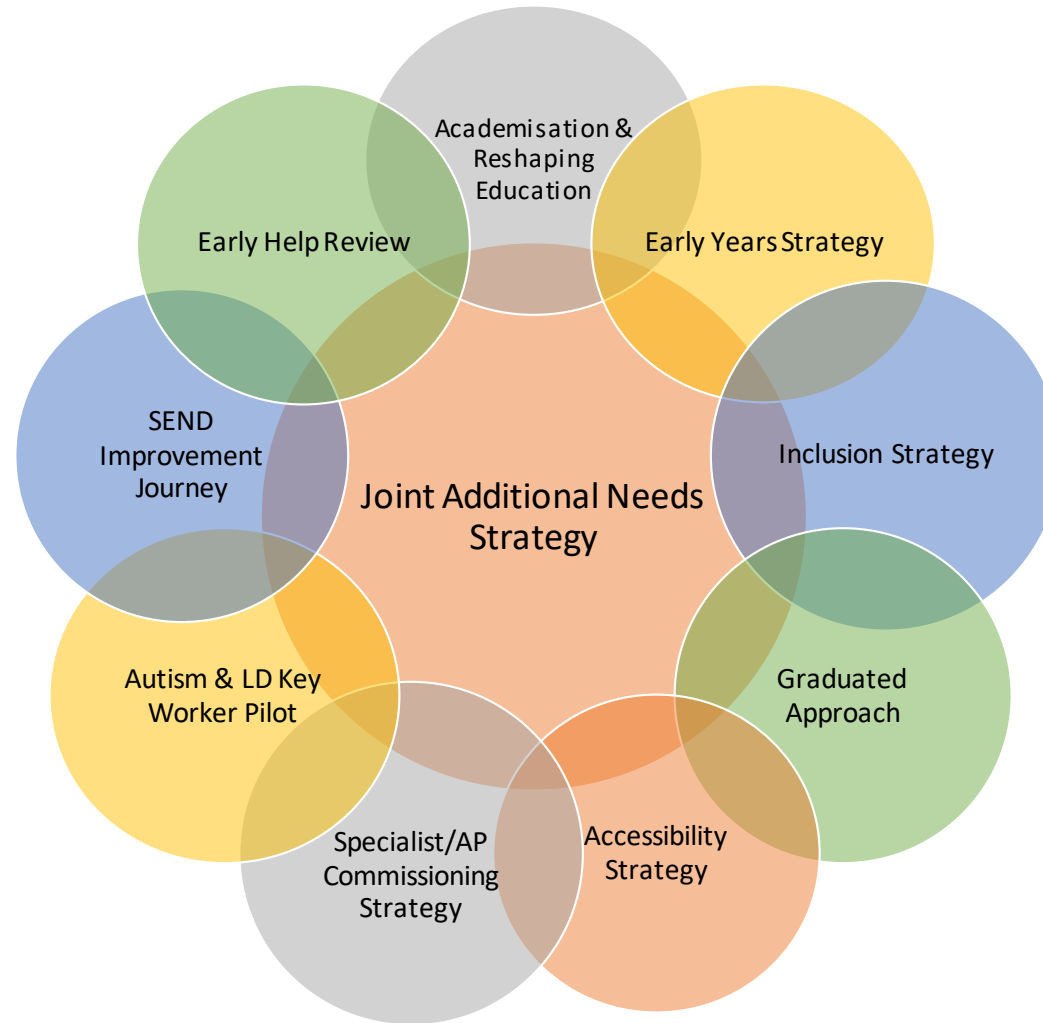
- Solihull Parent Care Voice (SPCV) represented on appropriate Boards and forums
- Partnership Agreement between the Council, CCG & SPCV in place
- Regular liaison between the Council and SPCV
- Provided Mental Health Wellbeing workshops for parents
- Funding approved for SPCV to establish a children's and young person's forum

Strategic direction

Additional Needs & Disabilities Governance



Strategic direction



Strategy



Updates - Education

- 20-week performance for 2020 was 54% (up from 29% in 2019). This has further increased in 2021 – and has been 70% or over in the past 3 months;
- 37% increase in EHCP requests in past 3 months from last year;
- New permanent, experienced staff being recruited;
- Training plan in place within new EHCP team to cover key aspects (including plan content);
- Annual review backlog reduced from 1743 to 1060;
- Liquid Logic casework system implemented;
- ISP commissioning process established and quality assurance framework under development;
- Additional capacity being brought in to draw together specialist provision demand 'intelligence' (anticipate need for an additional MLD/SLD special school)

Waiting Times for Therapy Services

Speech and Language Therapy –

- Waiting time to assessment at end of March was up to 37 weeks, but 85% of these were less than 13 weeks
- Waiting time from assessment to treatment was on average 26 weeks but a maximum of 68 weeks

Occupational Therapy (assessment service only) –

- Waiting times as of end of March were less than 13 weeks.

Physio –

- Waiting times as of end of March were less than 18 weeks with the majority less than 13 weeks.
- Significant staff turnover in last quarter have been flagged to commissioners as significant impact on waiting lists expected. Recruitment is progressing but shortage of candidates nationally.

SAS –

- Waiting times were over 78 weeks for assessment at end of March.
- Recruitment issues were significant as was impact of covid.
- Team now recruited to again, options for using Healios to support waiting list reduction being explored.

Successes

- Additional £1.9m of investment into SEND Education team;
- Increased co-production with SPCV and across agencies;
- Pace of improvements in past 6 months
- Increased DCO capacity (mental health)
- CDC SEF complete pending sign off at JAND
- Sign off of health co-production framework

Challenges & Unknowns

- Managing broader relationships with parent carers;
- Capacity of specialist provision and increasing numbers of children unable to physically access school;
- Ability to recruit experienced staff into EHCP team
- Recruitment and retention of staff within therapy services
- Waiting times for therapy services are increasing and have been impacted on by staff turnover

SEND Review

Ambitious
outcomes

Parental
confidence

Needs met at
the right time
& in the right
place

Building
capacity

Local
performance

