

Report to:	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD
Date:	17 January 2023
Reporting Officer:	Tim Bowman – Director of Education (Tameside and Stockport)
Subject:	SEND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ACTION UPDATE
Report Summary:	<p>Between 18 and 22 October 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Tameside to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.</p> <p>We received the findings report on 11 January 2022. The outcome of the inspection was that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) was required because of significant areas of weakness in the area's practice. Our WSOA was signed off by OFSTED on 01 July 2022.</p> <p>This report provides the regular update to Education Attainment Improvement Board on progress in implementing Tameside's Written Statement of Action (WSOA).</p>
Recommendations:	Members are asked to note the summary of progress against the Written Statement of Action provided in the appendices to this report.
Corporate Plan:	Early identification of high quality support for children and young people with special education needs and / or disabilities is a vital part of our living well and starting well objectives.
Policy Implications:	The recommendations support the Council's SEND Strategy and starting well priority. Furthermore, they will ensure the Council is better able to meet its statutory obligations.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	The report provides an update on progress against the Written Statement of Actions (WSOA). There are no direct financial implications included within this update report. Executive Cabinet agreed additional one-off financial resources of £62.7K and recurrent additional financial resources of £31K in September 2022 to support the WSOA.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	This report provides the Board with a helpful update on progress against the Written Statement of Actions. The Board will particularly note the RAG rated attachment which identifies areas where further action remains outstanding.
Risk Management:	<p>Failure to meet statutory obligations in relation to SEND could result in poor outcomes for children and young people and significantly increase the risk of poor inspection outcomes for the Borough.</p> <p>The drafting of the Written Statement of Action was overseen by the SEND Improvement Group. This group, reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board, includes senior officers from both the Council and CCG as well Headteachers and Clinicians.</p> <p>The SEND Improvement Group will continue to meet and will provide oversight of the delivery of this plan. In addition, formal oversight will be provided by the Education Attainment and</p>

Improvement Board (EAIB) as well as via regular updates to Executive Cabinet. Effective use of data will be essential and we will work closely with the Council's Transformation Team to achieve this.

Access to Information:

Non-Confidential

This report does not contain information, which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by Contacting Tim Bowman.



Telephone: 0161 342 2050



e-mail: tim.bowman@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 18 and 22 October 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Tameside to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.
- 1.2 We received the findings report on 11 January 2022. The outcome of the inspection was that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) was required because of significant areas of weakness in the area's practice. Our WSAO was signed off by OFSTED on 1 July 2022.
- 1.3 Progress in implementing the WSOA is overseen by the SEND Improvement Group, which is chaired by the Director of Education, with updates provided to this committee.
- 1.4 DfE and NHS England SEND Advisors also meet regularly with Council and ICS Officers to monitor progress. So far, two monitoring meetings have been held (September and December 2022).

2. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ACTION

- 2.1 To provide an update on progress, three documents are attached as appendices to this report:
 - The report compiled for DfE and NHS England Advisors at our December monitoring meeting, this report provides a detailed overview of progress.
 - The presentation which was given to DfE and NHS England Advisors at our December monitoring meeting
 - The most up to date and RAG rated WSOA.
- 2.2 Since our last update to the EAIB the following actions have been completed:
 - Local Offer Rebrand Completed. Soft Launch Live from October 2022
 - Local Offer Working Group - new lead assigned and working groups established and convened
 - Co-produced parent/carer survey now completed and results shared with parents/carers and Primary Heads
 - Business Process Review completed with findings reported to Executive Cabinet
 - First parent carer engagement session has taken place- feedback given re PC survey
 - SEND Scorecard devised and all schools provided with their own individual data
 - EHCP Quality Assurance Framework in place
 - Annual Review Recovery Plan in place
 - Timeliness Recovery Plan in place
 - Child/ Young Person Survey Live
 - SENDco Survey Live
 - Health Navigator Service in place - impact being measured
 - Health audits and CPD programme well underway
 - Significant Improvement in Timeliness in Health Advice (end of September 100% for CAMHS, 92% ISCAN, 63% Paediatrics)
 - Recruitment well underway for additional investment in Health Therapy and CAMHS
 - Health Preparation for Adulthood Strategic Lead appointed
- 2.3 Implementation is progressing well. 88% of actions are green or amber and only 3% of actions are red, with 4% not yet started. However, planned start dates will mean we are on track to meet target completion dates.

Overall Status by Priority – November 2022



- 2.4 Four actions are RAG rated as red. An update on each of these is outlined in **Appendix 1** to this paper.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The attached papers provide a detailed overview of progress against all the actions in the WSOA.
- 3.2 Progress in delivering the WSOA is good. Whilst implementation is at the early stage, a number of actions are already completed, including the initial baseline survey of parents. This will enable the impact of improvements to be clearly evidenced. Furthermore, a dedicated project manager has now been recruited to support implementation of the plan.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.