

Report to :	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD
Date :	24 October 2017
Reporting Officer:	Bob Berry, Assistant Director, Education
Subject :	AN UPDATE ON SEND IN THE LOCAL AREA, AND INSPECTION PREPARATION
Report Summary :	This report provides an update on SEND in the Local Area, and inspection preparation.
Recommendations :	That members note the content of the report.
Links to Sustainable Community Strategy :	The report supports three elements of the Community Strategy - Prosperous, Learning and Supportive Tameside.
Policy Implications :	A poor outcome in a Local Area SEND inspection may result in reputational damage for the council.
Financial Implications : (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, it should be noted that any additional cost implications arising from any developed proposals will need to be funded from existing revenue funding, including any one off SEND specific grants received by the Council..
Legal Implications : (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The implementation of the 2014 SEND Code of Practice 0-25 Years is a statutory obligation for the Local Authority. The report helpfully advises of the process but doesn't provide much assistance of a self assessment as to how well service performing and where we may need to concentrate effort and resources to achieve excellent outcomes.
Risk Management :	There are significant reputational risks to the Council if it does not monitor and challenge schools' performance and standards effectively, and intervene where appropriate.
Access to Information :	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Bob Berry, Assistant Executive Director, Education



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1. SEND UPDATE

- 1.1 The Statutory Assessment Request Panel and the Statutory Assessment Meetings take place each Wednesday morning. The meetings have changed in accordance commentary and feedback from stakeholders.
- 1.2 The Statutory Assessment Request Panel is a multi-disciplinary panel including representation from Education, Health and Social Care. This panel consider the request for an assessment of the needs of children and young people from 0-25 who have additional needs and the settings or families feel they may need an Educational and Health Care Plan. The panel decide at this point whether to proceed with an assessment.
- 1.3 The Statutory Assessment Meeting is the conclusion of the assessment where the decision of the panel is to issue an Education Health Care Plan. If a plan is issued, a decision regarding the most appropriate provision is considered and consultation takes place with the appropriate setting.
 - Settings and their families no longer attend the meetings and therefore they don't have to repeat the story evidenced in the request.
 - Cases are heard within two weeks of receipt; previously it was taking six weeks before the case was heard at panel. The statutory deadline is six weeks.
 - There have been an increased number of cases heard. (See **Appendix 1**).
- 1.4 One to one meetings have taken place with all members of the SEND team including Managers, Case workers and administrative staff. All staff have been briefed on our Self Evaluation and key messages and the action plan has been shared and areas for improvement highlighted. A number of changes have taken place to enable good communication and a speedier response to meeting need.
- 1.5 Staff are working more closely with Pupil Support Services and have input in the Pupil Support Panel Meetings. A focus is on prevention and early identification of need. Channels of communication with social care and health are being developed.
- 1.6 SEND Drop in sessions have taken place. These have involved SENDCo's from Early Years to Post 16. The purpose of these meetings has been to give the SEND team and all agencies working in this area the opportunity to connect with one another, share the key messages and to share and celebrate good practice. As we prepare for the Local Area SEND Inspection it has also enabled practitioners to raise concerns to consider solutions and to network with one another. There has been good representation across Education, Health and Social Care.
- 1.7 These sessions have strengthened relationships, demonstrated good partnership working and opened up further potential for developing systems and sharing good practice.
- 1.8 Staff members from the Pupil Support Service now sit on the Healthy Young Minds (formerly CAMHS) Single point of entry referral panel on a daily basis. This has enabled a greater awareness of need and has begun to identify potential gaps. From 1 April 2016 to 31st March 2017 Healthy Young Minds received 332 referrals from schools in total. 244 of these referrals were accepted and 79 were signposted elsewhere.
- 1.9 A SENDCo working group is in the process of being established, the first meeting will take place in November.
- 1.10 A SEND conference will take place in the Spring term involving staff from Education, Health and Social Care.
- 1.11 Processes and systems are being reviewed and will be updated in January 2018.