

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) STRATEGIC BOARD PROGRESS REPORT

YEAR ONE OF THE SEND REFORMS IN DONCASTER

1. Introduction

In September 2014 the Children and Families Act and the SEND Reforms came into force. Prior to September, Doncaster's preparations included a series of open and targeted information briefings, co-production of documentation and guidance and establishing a structure of Governance. Doncaster's published its Local Offer which is a central part of the Reforms and will continue to develop over time.

Highlights in Doncaster

2. Improvements to provision and services for children and young people with SEND

Quality Provision across the age range

- The 'Eye Can' Group for babies and infants with a visual impairment (VI) and their parents/carers started October 2015.
- Seedlings OFSTED registered provision for pre-school children with complex communication and interaction needs: this new provision is managed by the Local Authority's Pre School Inclusion Team (PSIT). It enables close co-operation and partnership working between families, early years' settings and schools, education, health and social care services. The first cohort of children to attend this provision transitioned to school in September 2015. The provision also transferred to new, more spacious premises in September 2015. Sharing knowledge and information, building confidence and providing reassurance are a key part of its success and the aim is to expand this provision further.
- Danum Academy KS3 attached SEND Resource opened: this provision offers a personalised curriculum for deaf and hearing impaired children to meet their language, social and emotional needs in a mainstream school environment.

- Life Skills provision at High Melton is now up and running and delivering to a small cohort of around of 5 young people. The target cohort has been young people with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) working at Entry 2.
- Project Search: this joint activity, across special schools, Doncaster College and local employers for Post 16 learners with special educational needs, has now completed Year 1. 5 out of 8 starters have been offered employment at NEXT.
- Refurbishment of Oaklands Short Break Unit for children and young people who have a range of disabilities including learning/physical disabilities, autism, behavioural and health issues. The Civic Mayor presided over the formal opening and Ben Parkinson MBE joined families and staff to celebrate.
- Re-commissioning of Short Breaks providers in progress, new contracts to begin on 1 April 2016: DPVoice and the Learning About Disability, Differences, Equalities and Rights (LADDER) group feedback about insufficient choice of provision was one of the key drivers for re-commissioning.
- Joint placements and highly individualised packages are in place funded through the High Needs Block.
- Joint packages are in place combining Continuing Health Care and Short Break provision.

Service redesign for the benefit of children and families

- New Community Paediatric Service: a multi-agency group including parents and carers has overseen the development and successful implementation of the new community paediatric service. This has led to improvements in quality of assessment and the Children and Young People (CYP) being seen by the right person at the right time.
- Autism Pathway: in the past 14 months there has been a reduction of over 250 CYP from the waiting list. All children under 5 years are now diagnosed within 12 weeks of referral as opposed to 12 months a year ago. The quality of multi- disciplinary assessment is much improved (NICE compliant) as is the post-diagnosis support. Health Visitors contribute to a quality health assessments drawing upon the use of evidence based tools such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). The ASD Strategy Group includes representatives from Doncaster Parent Voice (DPVoice), health services, education settings and education services.
- Autism Family Support Workers: There are three dedicated support workers who support CYP and their families with a diagnosis of autism. Key functions include helping families to model strategies.
- Healthwatch Doncaster have launched a new interactive web site
- A new teacher for Children with a Visual Impairment (VI) was appointed in September 2015.

- There has been a restructure and expansion of the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) to incorporate the Autism Social Communication Education Training Service (ASCETS).
- Speech & Language Restructure: Previous LA provision has been brought into the wider Speech and Language Service and the redesign is now reaching completion. This will improve the equity of service for all children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).
- Plans are nearing fruition to develop a family meeting and consultation room as part of the new eye clinic due to open in April 2016: this is joint activity between the Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI) Eye Clinic and Ophthalmology Department, the Health Authority and the LA's VI Service.
- Re-branding of Parent Partnership as Support, Advice and Information, Doncaster – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SAIDSEND). This reflects the changed remit of the service, now required to work with young people as well as parents and across Education, Health and Social Care. Name agreed with DP Voice who did not like the abbreviation SENDIASS.
- Independent Support is provided by SAIDSEND, Core Assets and DPVoice in partnership.
- Early Years Panel: this Panel now includes a representative from the Health Visiting Service. It has enabled greater joined up working across the LA and Health in terms of decision making, communication, awareness and understanding of needs, outcomes, funding and other support for children in Early Years prior to statutory Education Health Care (EHC) needs assessments.
- EHC Panel: this Panel now has representatives from mainstream and special schools, Health, Children and Adult Social Care and Education services. The benefits are greater joined up working across the LA, the Children's Trust, Health and education settings in terms of decision making, communication, awareness and understanding of needs, outcomes, funding and other support for children cross the age range.
- EHC Moderation Group: this group includes representatives from DPVoice, LADDER group, schools, Health, and LA services. The group meets termly and considers 2-3 examples from the EHC statutory assessment and planning process to quality assure and suggest valuable learning points for all
- An Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Steering Group has been established.

3. Borough wide events held over the past year

- Local Offer Information and Consultation event, January 2015: a successful formal launch of Doncaster's Local Offer was planned with the Information and Communication Steering Group and co-produced across Education services and settings, Health, Social Care, Doncaster Parent Voice (DPV) and Doncaster CVS.

- DPVoice have held a number of Family events in last 12 months which have incorporated awareness-raising and information sharing around SEND: the SAIDSEND team are also present at all events providing information to parents.
- DPVoice Easter party included consultation on Short Breaks and more formal consultation relating to draft specification and outcomes framework took place on 26th November 2015. LADDER group and DPVoice have been involved in selecting activities before each holiday. LADDER group met with regarding specification and outcomes on 3rd December.
- Personal Budgets event, January 2015, for settings, services across education, health and care and DPV: this event was co-produced with InControl and featured young people sharing their stories and views.
- Official Celebration event marking one year of Danum Deaf and Hearing Impaired Resource, June 2015: this event was jointly planned by the LA's HI Service and Danum Academy and was opened by Councillor Fennelly, Cabinet Member. Attendees included children and families from Danum and Plover Primary School HI Resource, Councillors, Danum Trustees, Health and Education services.
- A group of young people with learning difficulties from Doncaster College entered a competition as part of a Young Enterprise event. To date their new augmented reality innovation:
 - Won the Life Skills Heat
 - Won the College Heat
 - Won the local area final and were named as best innovation
 - Came Runners Up in the Regional Final and were named as best innovation – congratulations!

4. Workforce development

- Termly SENCo and Inclusion Managers' network meetings: extremely well attended meetings involving schools, early years, Post 16, services across the LA and Health and DPV. The agendas include termly SEND/EHC updates and discussion facilitated by education, health and social care colleagues and external speakers from local and national organisations. There has been a focus on outcomes for children and families and effective provision.
- Termly Early Years setting SENCO network meetings, SENCo drop in clinics and training on the role of the SENCo. All aspects of SEND/EHC are covered for SENCOs and Managers in Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings.
- Introduction to SEND for School Governors with a responsibility for SEN
- Training and briefings for School Governors.
- Introduction to SEND for ITT students: planned and delivered by Standards and Effectiveness Officer – SEND in conjunction with ITT and Partners in Learning.

- Introduction to the SEND reforms delivered to undergraduate students at Doncaster College.
- Introduction to SEND for NQT students: planned and delivered by Standards and Effectiveness Officer – SEND in conjunction with Partners in Learning.
- Introduction to SEND and School Funding reforms for new Head teachers.
- Person Centred Planning and Reviews: 8 sessions delivered to school SENCOs and briefings shared with Doncaster Post 16 providers.
- Provision Mapping and Supporting Children at SEN Support: 2 sessions for schools.

5. Information and processes

- DPV Information booklet for parents: EHC pack co-produced by DPV and the LA for distribution within schools, parent support groups and to individual parents.
- LA Transfer Plan published and revised in line with DfE Guidance: <http://www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info/disabilitiesupdates.html>. Also published is the one year progress report.
- SEN Assessment Service leaflet for parents: co- produced by the SEN Assessment Team and DPV representatives.
- Education Health Care statutory assessment and plans: templates co-produced through consultation. SEN Officers offer face to face meetings with parents/carers at two key stages in the 20 week process to embed co-production principles.
- Short Breaks Statement revised to reflect latest priorities and the reforms: DPVoice consulted on the text of the statement.
- Personal Evaluation Outcomes Tool (POET): Doncaster is part of InControl's 3rd pilot activity on monitoring and evaluating customer satisfaction and feedback from the EHC process.
- Health visitors report greater involvement in multi-agency meetings relating to children with SEND
- Review of short breaks packages now scheduled to combine with SEN statutory review where practicable: Parents' and young people's views are an integral part of the holistic review system.
- Partnership working between SEN team and Aiming High to set up DMBC's first Education personal budget
- Model SEN Policy, structure for the SEN Information Report, and School Accessibility Plans, produced and shared with schools
- Modernisation of High Needs Funding for mainstream schools and early years' provision: Proposals approved in April 2015 to clarify and expand access to Element 3 funding. This includes extending funding without a statutory EHC Plan for pre-school children regardless of the setting; for children with medical but no SEN needs; and for children with complex SEN who are newly arrived to the borough.

6. EHC performance data since September 2014

- 164 new requests for statutory EHC needs assessment: over 70% proceed
- 96 new EHC Plans issued (assessments for the first time) with 100% compliance within the 20 week maximum timeframe
- 134 school leavers with a Statement of SEN transferred to an EHCP ready for September 2015
- 302 children with a Statement of SEN will be subject to a transfer review between September 2015 and August 2016
- Parental feedback from new EHC statutory assessment and plans is 82% very good to excellent. Parents particularly appreciate the face to face meetings with SEN Officers to discuss the process, advice and working plan before it is submitted to the EHC Panel.

If you have any queries about the information in this report, in the first instance please contact Helen Barre, SEND Strategy Manager at helen.barre@doncaster.gov.uk or on 01302 737531.

This progress report was discussed and approved at the autumn term meeting of the SEND Strategic Partnership Board meeting held on 3rd November 2015.