

Update on Gateshead Local Area SEND Inspection



Summary of activity over the 3 weeks:

- Parent carer forum involvement critical
- Young people's involvement and voices critical and very powerful
- 100's of responses to the survey
- Over 100 documents and pieces of evidence uploaded
- 6 deep dive cases and multi-agency audits
- 53 children's cases tracked over 3 weeks
- 12 visits to settings across the local area
- 33 practitioners meeting with inspectors



Key strengths in the Local Area:

- Leaders have a determination to provide high quality education and support to children
- PCF actively contributes to strategic developments and feel heard
- SENDIASS offers effective advice to parent carers
- SEND young ambassador shares the views of young people with strategic leaders and have increased accessibility of the Local offer
- Combined strategy for workforce development is in place
- Coordinated early help support makes a positive difference to children and young people
- Dynamic support register is well established
- Specialist speech and language service supports transitions well
- Administration of EHC plans is timely
- Children in residential settings are kept safe and have their needs met effectively

- Strong 0-19 offer implementing the healthy child programme effectively, Good integrated work with paediatricians
- Strong early help offer
- Children have access to accurate school-based assessments with good support from HINT and LINT teams
- ARMS provision is well regarded and able to meet changing need with additional investment
- Effective support to those who have been or at risk of permanent exclusion
- Good integrated support for young people moving into post 16 provision
- Young people are positive about travel training offer
- Effective assessments and plans within the CWD social care team
- Leaders mitigate waiting times for children waiting for CYPS through continued offer from 'getting help services'
- Good process around Fair Access Panel

Areas for further development:

- Increase secondary provision to meet some specialist needs
- Develop strategic plans to meet the needs of children born with complex needs
- Improve the quality and consistency of contributions to EHC plans from all partners
- Increase the short break offer to reduce waiting times
- Further develop the 18-25 health offer to improve transitions
- Improve our response and communication to the diverse needs of people living in Gateshead

Areas for further development:

- Leaders to ensure that plans to reduce waiting times clearly identify the support that children will receive. Plans should contain ambitious timescales for improvement with clear monitoring and evaluation processes
- Leaders to ensure there is clear oversight of CYP as they move through emotional wellbeing and mental health system. Leaders should provide clear information CYP for families and professionals
- Leaders across the local area to provide clarity and consistency of expectations re contributions to improve quality of ECHP assessments and review processes
- Leaders should improve the quality of transitions for young people within health, education and social care services. Start preparation for adulthood earlier, particularly for children with complex needs
- Improve the quality of communication within the SEND service with parents, carers and young people and further develop the role of the SEND case workers. There should be a specific focus on families who speak English as a second language

Next Steps

- Report published in July 2023
- Update to the existing SEND improvement plan in the light of the inspection findings.
- Support and challenge meeting with DFE and CQC improvement advisors to agree details of SEND priority plan with key milestones
- Final SEND priority plan published early Sept after consultation with Parent Carer Forum and young people
- Governance through SEND Board; ICB Committee at Place; OSC and HWBB
- Delivery of the plan via 4 existing workstreams of the SEND Board with more detailed delivery plan for each workstream driving the work