

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee:	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	Wednesday 25 May 2016
Title:	Hampshire Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) Reforms Implementation Programme (Ofsted feedback)
Reference:	7545
Report From:	Liz Flaherty

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. As agreed at a former Children and Young People Select Committee meeting, the purpose of this report is to update on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service, particularly since our experience of the pilot SEND OFSTED/CQC inspection.

2. Contextual Information

2.1. The new SEN Service structure is now well established, although ongoing recruitment issues mean we are not fully staffed.

2.2. Overall the OFSTED/CQC pilot SEND reforms inspection, which took place 9-13 November 2015 was a positive experience, and the feed back from this forms the basis of the SEND reforms action plan for the local area. This is an ongoing piece of work, including the engagement of a range of services.

2.3. The data set of SEN activity is updated on a monthly basis. It demonstrates activity and performance against key reporting requirements. Highlights are set out below:

2.4. SEN data and trends

2.5. Overall, as at 31 March 2016, there are 5729 statements/EHCPs being maintained. A 12% increase from 31 March 2015.

2.6. Between September 2015 and January 2016 283 EHCPs had been finalised, compared with 284 in the same period last year. 16% of these new EHCPs were completed within the 20 week statutory timescale

- 2.7. The number of new requests continues to increase, with a 25% increase in the number of requests in the autumn term 2015 compared to the autumn term 2014.
- 2.8. Between January and March 2016 there were 511 new requests received, a 30% increase compared to the same period last year.
- 2.9. By the end of March 2016, 280 requests for assessment had been agreed, as compared with 237 last year.

3. Post 16

3.1. By September 2016, Learning Difficulty Assessments will no longer be recognised. We have had over 80 requests for an EHC assessment in the post 16 sector, in addition to the 475 Y11 pupils who need to transfer to an EHCP ready for their transfer to college in September 2016.

3.2. Transfer Reviews

3.3. 1,500 transfers are due this year, including the addition of the year 9 pupils (400 children). Due to pressures on the service, we did not meet the 15 February deadline for these to be complete for pupils in Year 2 and 6, and 31 March for those in Year 11. However, we are confident that these children will have Education and Health Care Plans in time for the end of the summer term.

4. SEN Way of Working

4.1. Overall there are a number of inter-linking strands of activity that are supporting our new way of working.



5. EHCP process

- 5.1. The new 20 week EHCP business process is in place.
- 5.2. There is on-going liaison with colleagues in health and social care to smooth the health/social care contributions to the assessment process.
- 5.3. The County Moderation Group (CMG) meets fortnightly to ensure only appropriate requests are agreed. This operates as a multi-agency meeting with the membership of this group being expanded to include Health and social care.
- 5.4. We have set up a discrete transfer team to focus solely on the transfer reviews this academic year, enabling the eight service teams to concentrate on the new requests and the annual reviews.
- 5.5. There is a delay with the introduction of Capita ONE, the new IT system to support the service. This should have gone live on 1st September, but will be in place by June 2016
- 5.6. Culture change training is underway to help effect the development of person centred ways of working.
- 5.7. There is a close involvement with the Adults services' "My life, my way" project, particularly around the development of personal budgets. This project has incorporated the previous SEND Reforms Personal Budgets workstream to progress the development of holistic personal budgets.

6. Evaluation of the new EHCP process from parent/carers

- 6.1. An evaluation form is sent to every family when they receive their final EHC Plan. An annual analysis of the evaluation feedback is carried out, along with the feedback that Hampshire Parent Carer Network collect from parents
- 6.2. Hampshire Parent Carer Network is working with the SEN service to develop an ongoing evaluation process, so that we can also gather and review feedback from families beyond their experience of the initial assessment process.

7. Activities completed since September 2015:

- Pilot OFSTED/CQC inspection
- Governor training
- Introduction of termly regional update meetings for SENCOs
- Participation in various training events being co-ordinated across the southern region via the South East Peer Network hosted by Portsmouth City Council.
- Continued meetings of the County Inclusion Group
- Paper for Schools Forum around the funding for SEN in mainstream schools out for consultation until May 2016.

- Regular meetings with HPCN
- Revision of paperwork to include specific reference to travel considerations early on in the EHC assessment process
- Review of current paperwork for EHC assessment, EHCPs and annual review
- On-going in-house training for staff within the SEN service, focussing on a person centred approach
- Review of the current special provision available within the county to ensure this is sufficient to meet future demand

8. Work planned

- 8.1. Culture change training entitled “Thinking Differently” to develop the person centred way of working. This is being undertaken with SEN, HPCN and Hampshire Educational Psychology, and will be delivered in partnership with the IOW SEN service
- 8.2. Exploring ‘Inclusive Solutions’ training with HPCN, for use by schools and families
- 8.3. Introduction of Capita ONE to replace Impulse and to help the service make better use of digital enablers to streamline the assessment process – now planned for June 2016
- 8.4. Launch of Inclusion Strategy to ensure schools are aware of their responsibility to meet the needs of children at SEN support
- 8.5. Revision of all EHCP paperwork.
- 8.6. Publication of new Annual Review paperwork and guidelines.
- 8.7. Introduction of SMS/”tracking” to ease communication with parents and young people.
- 8.8. On-going liaison and co-production with parent groups.
- 8.9. Continued rolling programme of updating all publications and criteria documents
- 8.10. Action Plan finalised following feedback from the Ofsted/CQC pilot Inspection November 2015, involving key partners.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Although good progress continues to be made within the Service regarding the implementation of the reforms, there is concern about the increase in the number of requests being received.
- 9.2. The financial pressures on the ‘high needs’ budget cannot be sustained, and options are currently being explored as to how to address this issue.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Not applicable	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u> Children and Families Act 2014 [Part 3], Regulations and Code of Practice	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;

Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This report is an information paper, and not for decision. Therefore there is no impact on equalities and an assessment does not need to be undertaken.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

This report has no impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The report's information will have no impact on carbon footprint/energy consumption.

3.2 How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

This report's information does not have a climate change impact.