



WSOA (MR5)

Draft Note of Standard WSoA Review Meeting

Local Area:	Shropshire
Date:	This note draws on SEND Partnership Board Meetings on the 23 rd March and 21 st April plus additional interim meetings with officers and PCF on the 3 rd , 10 th and 30 th March.
Venue:	Virtual Meetings

Planned membership 5 th May 2002	
Claire Parker	Director of Partnerships (STWCCG) SRO
Tanya Miles	Executive Director of People (SLA) Deputy SRO
David Shaw	Assistant Director of Education and Achievement (SLA and LANO)
Karen Levell	Service Manager SEND and Inclusion (SLA)
Val Walsh	Programme and Business Manager for LD&A and SEND (STWCCG) (interim)
Sarah Thomas	Joint chair PCF PACC
Zara Bowden	Joint chair PCF PACC
Sharon Graham	Shropshire Council DSCO
Sally Johnston	Designated Clinical Officer, CCG
Pat Tate	Professional Adviser SEN and Disability, DfE.
Gabrielle Stacey	Professional Adviser SEN and Disability, DfE.
Debbie Ward	NHSE/I SEND Adviser
Deanne Michie	Case Lead, SIU, DfE

General update on progress or areas of significant impact

- Shropshire has successfully concluded the recruitment of an AD for Education (David Shaw) and Strategic Lead for SEND (Karen Levell). Both are now in post and actively getting to grips with SEND in Shropshire. There has been a concentrated effort to reach a consensus on the position of the WSoA, progress of actions and evidence of impact.
- Sally Johnston, Designated Clinical Officer, CCG for SEND DCO and Sharon Graham, Shropshire Council DSCO are working together at pace to enable the health and social care workforce respectively to understand their SEND responsibilities and improve skills. This includes work on the processes linked to the statutory assessment process.
- A Quality and Assurance Group (QAG) has been established as an operational arm of SEND governance. This group are meeting weekly and will provide the detailed scrutiny with the workstreams and the drive necessary to accelerate the work on the WSoA. In addition to officers mentioned above the group will also include Val Walsh Programme and Business Manager LD&A and SEND



Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin CCG and the joint chairs of PACC the Shropshire PCF. The SEND governance structures are being reviewed.

- Feeding into the work is a recently completed extensive SEF that includes an executive summary. This is informing answers to the questions “What have we done?”, “What challenges are we facing?”, “What evidence of impact do we have?” and next steps needed.
- The area is developing a skeleton accelerated plan along with a communications and engagement strategy. The latter could include a presentation for a variety of stakeholders and Ofsted /CQC when they visit. There are useful elements of the SEF that could be incorporated. Alongside this risk register reviews are now a standing item on workstream meetings.
- The PCF continue to review the co-production framework. They are undertaking a review of the membership of the group. It currently has around 10 members and has contact with families through various means including social media (1k+) and the local offer newsletter (2k+).
- The area continues to have issues accessing timely and consistent data from some health providers, this is being reviewed and tackled.
- The SEND Strategy was launched in the summer of 2021. The focus on outcomes has led the area to include PfA as an additional priority area to be included alongside the WSoA areas of concern. This is also driving work to reach out to young people and to broaden representation in the four subgroups of the workstream.

Support received in this reporting period

Actions agreed at the last monitoring point (MR4) have all been implemented.

The area has not accessed external support in the last quarter but utilised incoming post holders to review the progress of the WSoA and plan next steps.

WSoA Actions/timescale check

Are there any actions behind schedule?

Y

Action

Reason

Mitigation/remedial action

All

A number of actions are subject to minor delay as a result of ongoing national pandemic.

Work has been initiated on a rag rated dashboard similar to that established in adult services.

Area 1

Inconsistent strategic leadership and weak strategic planning across the area, most notably in the CCG, including the ineffective use of data to accurately commission and plan services

Progress on key actions

SEND governance arrangements established, partnership strengthened with joint oversight of SEND agenda from CCG and health providers through strategic and



partnership board. This is now being strengthened with the establishment of the Quality Assurance Group (QAG) that will sit between the workstream leads and Partnership Board.

Increased support and scrutiny for SEND across LA and CCG (Health and Wellbeing Board, People's Scrutiny Committee and CCG Quality and Performance Committee)

Evidence of impact

- Co-produced SEND Strategy published April 2021.
- The evidence of SEND priorities forming regular discussion/action across the partnership demonstrating increased ownership and understanding by stakeholders has been further accelerated in the last month. The JSNA, SEF and draft accelerated WSoA are providing evidence of an area working effectively together and at pace.
- PACC/PCF a strength in the level of strategic coproduction.

Key next steps

- Complete outstanding actions to demonstrate that strategic leadership and planning have made sufficient progress. This to include further review of governance to support ICS priorities in respect of SEND
- Pull together how the elements of JSNA, SEF, Strategy, accelerated WSoA align into presentation to share with wider stakeholders and revisit team.
- Further develop performance/KPIs/Reporting mechanisms and Dashboards.
- Resolve data access issues with health providers.
- Further strengthening the wider scope of feedback is required especially around the CYP voice.

Area 2	The lack of inclusion of health services' input into the area's SEND action plan
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Progress on key actions

The review of health action plans and contribution to workstreams by WSoA programme manager resulted in workstreams all having a health representative and some have health chairs.

Health data provided for the SEND JSNA

New joint commissioner in post who is leading a SEND plan of action, that will be in the form of a all ages Market Position Statement, this work will make a significant impact in understanding the provision across the market place and in addressing the gaps, but also using the JSNA.

Evidence of impact

- Impact of the joint work by DCO and DSCO in developing effective improvements in EHC processes and workforce development in health and CSC respectively.
- Improved working relationships, understanding of roles and ability to problem solve across the system.



- Health services input is evidenced in the JSNA, SEF and Accelerated WSoA .
- Improved and accurate Local SEND offer
- Improved working relationships, understanding of roles and ability to problem solve across the system.

Key next steps

Review of health data and information on the local SEND offer

Area 3 | Significant waiting times for large numbers of children and young people on the ASD and ADHD diagnostic pathways.

Progress on key actions

Shared vision agreed that preferred model is based on Coventry model.

Three sub groups have worked on aspects of the model:

- Mapping of support and intervention currently available pre and post diagnosis (AWM, Early Bird and Early Bird plus, Early Help)
- Workforce development plan to build capacity using models such as the Accelerator program across available workforce.
- Visual pathway based on identified models to provide structure for mapping onto what is already available, the pathway thus far and the proposed pathway impact.
- The pathway will support CYP and families from initial concern with assessment and intervention.
- GPs can refer into the pathway using Dimensions tool for CYP not in school
- The intention is that waiting time for assessment is removed as CYP are receiving assessment from start not end of the process
- CCG have funded an ASD assessment team within BeeU

Evidence of impact

- Work has progressed to develop the pathways and mental health partners are now on board working across services and in supporting the new Hilta posts, who will play a key role in quality monitoring of EHCPs.
- Multi professionals-Health and Education working together
- PACC/PCF pleased at the process of development and future direction of travel.
- Commitment to funding 2x HLTRs and Specialist Senior EP

Key next steps

Full implementation including across the Early Years Sector.

Embed the QA approach involving assessment intervention team working closely with Neurodiagnostic team/evaluating the process/liasing with service users/PCF.

Further work is required to strengthen the 0-5 pathways.

Area 4 | Significant waiting times for those needing assessment and treatment from the speech and language therapy service.

Progress on key actions



- Commissioners, providers and stakeholders committed to system wide balanced approach for speech, language and communication, and acknowledgement that the service alone cannot achieve sustainable improvements.
- Workstream established including STW to ensure consistency of approach and to support whole system including provider to secure improvement. Place- based consultations undertaken with staff, parents and young people.
- SALT advice line, handbook and Facebook page launched. Remote SLT service offer including parent/ educator training.

Evidence of impact

- Parent / educator reported experience for the training workshops and the advice line are good to excellent
- SLT Training data: number of contacts = 100 /month since April 2021
SLT training data participant feedback = over 99% positive.

Key next steps

- Data on waiting list position, supporting narrative and action plan/risk register
- Mapping of approaches used across Shropshire (Health and LA) e.g. screening tools and intervention tools.
- SCHAT business case for Early identification and intervention for SLCN for early years and KS1 progressed.
- Implement agreed communication for education settings about new resources and pathway

Area 5 | Inconsistency in the quality of input from education, health and care into EHC assessment and planning.

Progress on key actions

- DCO/DSCO and SEN lead working together on agreed QA framework and data set, group established with plans to trial QA tool.
- Established process of feedback from SEN2 Panel directly to SEND leads within health providers (ShropComm).
- Developed EHCP standards as foundation step on Quality Assurance ladder
- Health specific CAMHS specific EHCNA exemplar template in development. Training session delivered to 20 CAMHS practitioners; Social Care delivering training to new staff
- 20 week performance remains at 71% despite staff changes.
- Challenges around annual review completion have been acknowledged and a recovery plan developed as part of the accelerated action plan to resolve this issue.

Evidence of impact

Limited at this time

Draft audit tool being trialed based on 5 point quality standards.
More to be done to ensure clear detailed health advice.



Key next steps

- Training Sub- Group to be established to oversee targeted training programme.
- Establish Audit schedule including new plans and those updated through AR process. Moderation of audit team.
- Develop feedback to support end of key stage ARs to review impact and effectiveness of the EHCP.

Area 6 | The high rate of exclusions for children and young people with an EHC plan and the high rate of repeat fixed -term exclusions for those receiving SEND support.

Progress on key actions

- The draft Shropshire Community Inclusion Policy has been presented to the Schools' Central Policy Group on 10th June 2021 and was well received there. It is now out for wider consultation.
- A task force approach is in place so that professionals can respond quickly to support children and schools and provide hands on support. A weekly Safeguarding and Behaviour panel has been arranged where issues can be raised and a solution focused approach is applied to situations.
- A Peer Challenge took place in February 2021; one of the focus areas being permanent exclusions. An action plan has now been drafted based on the issues identified and reducing exclusions for children with SEN.
- Multi-agency collaborative meetings extended to include mainstream schools.
- TMBSS primary delivery model ratified and ready for implementation from September 2021 (this was delayed from January 2021 due to the pandemic and lockdowns).

Evidence of impact

- Although, still above national rates, the permanent exclusion of SEN Support children is on a downward trajectory.
- A significant number of exclusions have been averted due to the collaborative multi-agency response. Out of 68 Pupil Planning Meetings held during the Autumn term 2021, 45 children haven been successfully supported to maintain their place in their original mainstream school setting to date (March 2022).
- Officers from the local authority attend all pupil disciplinary committee meetings and provide a written report – 4 exclusions have been overturned this academic year.
- The new primary TMBSS operating model commenced in January 2022, although still early days it has been well-received and early indications are that the outreach model is successful. There have been 4 permanent exclusions of children in Y4 in the autumn term 21 but none this term.
- There is a shared sense of purpose to create inclusive places and an environment where all children can learn and thrive.

- **Key next steps**



- Resolve ongoing issues with data collection due to LA changing their information management system, which has delayed the development of a full data dashboard and share with schools and partners.
- Relaunch of Restorative Practice initiative
- Develop and promote a clear model of co-ordinated CPD to support school staff in behaviour management
- Further consultation and implementation of the Inclusion and Managed Moves policy
- Further explore an 'invest to save' model to provide more support and intervention to prevent future permanent exclusions and reduce fixed term exclusions
- Further training for governors.
- Further audit activity around children with SEN who are excluded
- The appointment of an Officer to facilitate Managed Moves and to QA and promote AP
- The new SEMH Free School, the Keystone Academy run by the YES Trust will open in temporary accommodation from September 1st 2022.
- Review specialist and alternative provision capacity across Shropshire to ensure a sufficient range of provision and timely access to places when required.

Agreed actions/support following this meeting

Action	Who	When
Feedback to QAG group and DCS to involve new SEND adviser from DfE	DS	May 5 th 2022, 9 am
Confirm support and monitoring arrangements for the summer term.	DS/GS	“ “

Conclusion and summary information

- Shropshire sought to minimize the disruption of the staff changes to the WSoA programme and to secure the scrutiny and momentum of the work. The arrival of new permanent SEND leadership and active DCO/DSCO alongside the programme manager for the WSoA has injected purpose and pace.
- The completion of the SEND self-evaluation framework and review of the WSoA and risk registers means that Shropshire have a clear view of where they are and what they need to do. This is being taken forward through an accelerated WSoA and introduction of a small dedicated engine room approach (The QAG). The strength of Shropshire's strategic partnership is further demonstrated through the membership of this group including PACC. Progressing this work will strengthen the evidence to show the progress that has been made in priority areas 1 and 2.
- Consideration needs to be given in priorities 3 and 4 to the question of waiting lists. In addition to demonstrating strategic actions taken and new pathways and processes,



there needs to be clear data about the waiting list positions. This data should have a supporting narrative, action plans, impact and next steps.

- The work on reducing exclusions has been well led and involved a robust operational response to notifications of permanent exclusion. There is already evidence of impact in the data with Shropshire now in line with national average figures rather than the spikes seen at the time of the area SEND inspection. There is a clear understanding of the need to involve all agencies in supporting children and young people demonstrating dysregulated behaviours, Shropshire is well placed to take the learning from the work so far to develop a system wide response. This will support schools to have the confidence to have in place early intervention and preventative approaches as well as targeted more specialist responses when needed.
- The former will require a comprehensive programme of CPD building a menu of support from restorative approaches, autistic friendly schools project, fundamentals of responses to behaviour and attachment aware schools.
- Shropshire are now in a position to revisit the initial presentation describing the progress of the WSoA. This will be a useful mechanism for communicating the SEND improvement journey that Shropshire is on, evidence of impact and plans to ensure improvements are sustained. Key questions to have in mind is “What do we know?” and “How do we know this?”.

Pat Tate DfE

Deborah Ward NHSE/I

May 5th 2022