

SEND Strategy Governance Board Notes

Thursday 7 December 2023

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Interim Facilitator: Claire Lillis (CL) / **Minutes:** Matthew Jenkinson (ESCC)

Attendees: Bethan Twigg (ESCC), Allison Jeffery (ESCC), Councillor Bob Standley (ESCC), Holly Riley-Saxby (ESPCF), Helen Diplock (ESPCF), Nathan Caine (ESCC), Chrys Poullikas (NHS), Caroline Tozzi (NHS), Louise Moor (Primary School Representative), Annmarie Waite (Secondary School Representative), Sally Polanski (Amaze), Meg Best (ESCC), Alex (Young Person Representative), Martin Komen (NHS), Penny Mackay (ESCC), Sarah Speedie (ESCC), Catherine Dooley (ESCC), Debs Wilson (NHS), Antony Julyan (ESCC), Emma Buggy (Early Years' Representative).

Apologies: Elizabeth Funge (ESCC), Jo Nash, Kirsty Prawanna.

1. Introductions

Claire Lillis introduced herself as the Interim Facilitator and introduced the agenda.

2. Update on SEND and AP Change Programme

Penny Mackay gave a presentation on Change Programme developments.



SEND Governance
Board - SENDAP Cha

A discussion was had around the need to ensure that our engagement in the Change Programme is always focused on positive impact on children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families.

ACTION - Penny/Nathan Caine to seek clarity on whether Change Programme local areas will have to engage on all focus areas of the programme.

3. Group Discussions – Improving School Attendance for Children and Young People with SEND

Sarah Speedie presented to the group on low and non-attendance for young people with SEND. This had been identified by the SEND Strategy Implementation Group as an area to be highlighted to the board.

After the presentation, the board was asked to consider:

- Are there any barriers that have not been considered in the presentation?
- How can schools continue to support children and young people with SEND overcome any barriers in attendance?
- Is there anything the local authority can do through the new attendance support teams to support breaking down barriers to attendance?

- Any other strategies or factors that we need to consider?

The board separated into breakout groups to discuss the questions. Key feedback from the groups included:

- The importance of adjustments that schools can make, often simple ones.
- Importance of Peer-to-peer support within schools.
- Approaches should be targeted, depending on circumstances of young person and family.
- The importance of investing time in knowing and understanding the community can be huge.
- Sharing practice across schools. This does happen, in some cases it could be happen more effectively.
- The importance of considering the wellbeing of whole family.

ACTION - full notes from breakout discussions to be shared with Bethan.

ACTION - Sarah to provide an update at future board meetings.

It was noted that there were technical issues for some board members which prevented full discussion at times.

4. Update on Strategy Theme 2 (My Optimum Health and Well-being are Supported – Physical and Mental Health)

Health representatives on the board, and other health colleagues delivered the following presentation:



Theme 2 Deep Dive
7 Dec 2023.pptx

There was discussion on some aspects including:

- How providers can work more collaboratively together
- Annual review processes

The following areas were raised as areas that need consideration but were not discussed, due to time constraints; Multiple complex needs, autism, transitions.

There was lots of information to cover in the PowerPoint. Board members and presenters agreed that we need to consider how theme updates are presented to the board in future meetings.

ACTION - New facilitator to lead conversations with Bethan and board members on consideration to how reporting should work. Guidance around presentation of future power points to be provided.



5. Any Other Business (AOB)

Several members expressed their preference for face-to-face meetings, rather than online. This preference was noted.

Several members also asked for thought to be given as how to best utilise the expertise on the board more effectively.