

EHC Plan Implementation update report

Progress since last SEND Board

Processes/Documentation

- The EHC Needs Assessment process is now in place. It is the result of refining processes trialled on several pilot cases.
- Work will be continuing on Person-Centred Reviews, using some pilot cases over the autumn term.
- The timetable for converting Statements into EHC Plans by April 2018 has been published following consultation with FACT.
- All standard letters for the EHC Needs Assessment process, Annual Review responses etc have been redrafted, with some input from Parent Partnership and FACT. These now include the new requirements in respect of mediation/tribunal appeals.
- A process to support transition to post-16 (FE) placements, where LDAs are no longer issued, has been developed and will be operational as and when required. These will be fully supported by colleagues from Connexions.
- Decision-making processes are being adapted to ensure that additional work for LA & BLT colleagues is kept to a minimum and also so that decisions are made in as short time as possible in order to provide essential support for vulnerable/needy children/young people.
- Process for requesting/providing health advice for young people aged 18 - 25 agreed.

Training/Information/Communication

- SEN workshops/presentations were repeated on 4 separate occasions from end of June through July, approx. another 200 people attended, primarily school staff but also Early Years settings and some health professionals.
- 5 SENCO Liaison Group sessions were held to follow on from the conference workshops/presentations and more than 200 school staff attended these in July. They were presented by the SEN Team and Educational Psychology Service.
- 5 Information sessions were arranged for parents during July in schools across the county. They will include presentations on the Local Offer and EHC Plans - co-delivered by LA Officers and FACT. Approx 250 parents/carers attended.

- Overview of SEND Reforms was provided at a conference for TAs.
- More information on the reforms is now available via the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) as audio/visual presentations.
- Information leaflets to be sent to parents/carers/young people in respect of the EHC Needs Assessment and Annual Reviews have been drafted and are at various stages of consultation with FACT and CCG.
- SEN Team, Connexions, Commissioners have attended in-house training sessions to ensure all are aware of the new processes.
- Gill Shurrock and Julie Standing have had several meetings with CCG and other health colleagues to plan joined-up processes.

Progress next period

- Training/information sharing session to be held with a range of education, health and care professionals in respect of formulating and supporting “outcomes”.
- Pilot project for converting NCY 6 statements to EHC Plans will be underway.
- New decision-making processes to be implemented.
- Plans for training for post-16 colleagues to be in place.

Issues

- Lack of guidance and progress by Pathfinders in respect of Personal Budgets is impacting on development of documentation and administrative processes.
- Defining outcomes for EHC Plans is causing a range of professionals and school staff some concern.
- Cost of training for education settings is prohibitive.

Local Offer update report

Progress since the last SEND Board

Participation Task & Finish group

Achievements:

- Participation sessions delivered at the following; 3 schools (3 sessions at each school), Talkback [19-25yr olds] 6 sessions.
- Report collated all recommendations from participation sessions and consultations undertaken individually or in school councils. Feedback to every person about projects to take forward as a direct result of their involvement
- Confirmed projects to take forward to be confirmed

Information Task & Finish group

Achievements:

- Local offer now live on the BFIS website www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/localoffer
- 203 providers now provided Local offer information and continue to increase.
- Content pages developed covering Education, Health & Social Care, Preparing for Adulthood, Short Breaks, Childcare and Additional Support.
- Further pages being developed covering mediation, eligibility and National provision

Local offer project group

Achievements:

- Pinpoint Database to be promoted more fully to support Local offer work
- Soft launch underway with articles, social media updates and communication through partnership networks
- Planning for full launch (early 2015) to commence
- BFIS team not yet received an increase in SEND enquiries but too early to monitor

Progress next period

- Remain web development work to be completed (search functionality improvements)
- User testing for Local offer to be undertaken
- Recommendations from Participation session to be project planned
- Model of co-production for Young people to be developed
- Further accessibility training and audio/website user guides to be produced

Issues

- Website work timelines to complete work

Personal Budgets update report

Progress since Last Board:

- Personal Budget Policy in draft
- Guidance for schools and professionals in draft
- Parental leaflet in draft
- Session delivered by S.Paylor to SEN Team and Business Support on Personal Budgets
- Social Care session with representative from In Control

Progress in next period:

- Monitor uptake / interest of Personal Budgets
- Finalise Policy, parent leaflet, guidance for schools
- Training for Head teachers and Senior leaders to be delivered 1st October by S.Paylor
- Explore linking Education Direct Payment requests with SC system

Issues:

- Delays in the DfE releasing information – toolkit for implementation is incomplete

- Lack of evidence from pathfinders on real working examples of PBs
- Code of Practice still leaves many unanswered questions such as clarity around Home Education

Preparing For Adulthood/Transitions update report

Progress since the last Board

- Transitions service now has a Business Manager and 2 team members
- Potential supported living project is being looked at into which will promote independent living skills for those eligible for Adult Social Care
- Job Description for a Transitions Education lead has been developed
- Transitions training resources now ready to go onto websites

Progress in the next period

- Education worker is recruited
- Develop Transitions referral, assessment and planning processes so delays are reduced so that timescales are reached for EHC Plans
- Business case developed if needed for further supported living
- Scoping work to be undertaken regarding the need for advocacy services
- Awareness raising amongst adult teams about everyone has the right to request personal budgets even if they are not eligible

Communications Update Report

Progress since last board

- Third issue of Bucks SEND News distributed in July.
- SEND Reforms leaflet has been distributed to special schools, Children's Centres, libraries, SENCos and Sue Nicholls & Oakridge Centres. Copies also made available to contacts in Educational Psychology, Early Years and Family Information Service. Further copies given out at parent information sessions and in all relevant correspondence with parents/carers.
- BCC web pages– www.buckscc.gov.uk/SEND ongoing updates with latest news and information.
- Facebook page – www.facebook.com/BucksSENDReforms - continues to be regularly updated highlighting items of interest to parents/families and general audiences. Page 'likes' now over 179.
- Promotion of Local Offer go live – press release, home page banner, digi-screens, social media, Schools Bulletin.

Progress next period

- Next issue of Bucks SEND News to be published before end of September.
- Webpages to be updated and reformatted into a more user-friendly format with separate sections for Parents/Carers, Children and Young People, Education settings and Other Providers/Professionals
- Leaflet on Personal Budgets to be produced for parents/families
- Further articles to appear in MyBucks e-newsletter.
- Short article on Local Offer to go into Aylesbury Vale District Times.

Issues

- Are all stakeholders engaged? Have we conveyed messages out effectively to all those who are affected?
- Ongoing promotion of Local Offer and reforms – need to ensure all new families are aware.