



## Report to Children's and Education Select Committee

**Date:** Thursday 26 January 2023

**Title:** SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA) Progress Update

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1. Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected the services provided for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Buckinghamshire between 28 Feb – 11 March 2022. The inspection outcome report can be found here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/educational-needs-disabilities-inspection-the-results/>
2. Following inspection, the Local Authority and the Integrated Care System (formerly the CCG) were jointly responsible for submitting an action plan to Ofsted, detailing how 3 areas of significant weakness would be addressed. The Plan, submitted on 8 August 2022 was approved by Ofsted on 25 August 2022.
3. The 3 areas of weakness are:
  - The lack of a cohesive area strategy to identify and meet the needs of those children and young people requiring speech and language, communication and occupational therapy
  - Waiting times for assessments on the autism and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder diagnosis pathways and the system-owned plans in place to address this
  - Waiting times to see a community paediatrician.
4. The action plan, known as a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) was co-produced with key stakeholders across education, health and care services including voluntary and community sector organisations and parent representatives. Workshops were held (21 June and 4 July) to identify solutions and key actions to address the issues raised, building on ongoing improvement work across the system. Services represented at these events included:

- Buckinghamshire Council - Children's Social Care, Achievement and Learning, Improvement and Transformation, Early Years, Integrated Commissioning, Early Help, Integrated SEND Service
  - NHS
  - Integrated Therapies Service
  - CAMHS
  - Allied Health Professionals
  - Community Paediatricians
  - Schools – primary, secondary and special
  - FACT Bucks Parent/Carer Forum
  - SEND Information, Advice and Support Service
  - Pace
  - Early Autism Support
5. Strategic and operational leads across health and the Local Authority finalised the content of the WSoA in accordance with feedback from the Children's Services Continuous Improvement Board, while also following advice from the DfE and NHS England Advisors in relation to style and approach. The full WSoA action plan can be found here: [SEND Inspection Written Statement \(buckinghamshire.gov-uk.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/s3.amazonaws.com)
6. Since finalising the WSoA significant work has been undertaken to establish the infrastructure and monitoring mechanisms. This has included:
- The development of detailed operational plans with metrics to capture the specific activity and targets that underpin the published high level WSoA
  - Alignment of activity with the wider SEND improvement programme to prevent duplication, ensure interdependencies are understood, and wider priorities continue to be addressed
  - The development of a dashboard to track Key Performance Indicators and visually evidence progress
  - Allocation of a dedicated project manager to oversee progress and escalate issues where this is insufficient. An additional health funded project support officer role is also in the process of being created.
  - Establishment of a WSoA governance structure, including a monthly meeting with leaders across education, health, care and parent

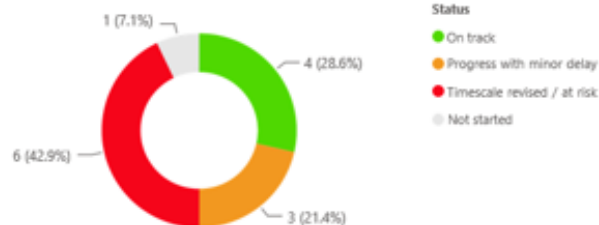
representatives, as well as a SEND Improvement Board that will scrutinise progress and ensure accountability.

7. As part of ongoing monitoring, our first meeting with the DfE to review progress within the WSoA was held 13 December 2022. This was an opportunity to provide an update on each action identified within the WSoA, to ensure progress is being achieved at pace and reflect any evidence available, demonstrating a positive impact to the lived experience of children and young people.
8. Initial feedback following this meeting has been positive, however progress needs to be maintained within all workstreams to ensure improvement work continues at pace. Each workstream will be reviewed in detail by the WSoA Group, with scrutiny focused on those actions RAG rated as red. The next meeting with the DfE will be in April 2023, date to be confirmed.
9. Please see a summary of the progress against the plan below:

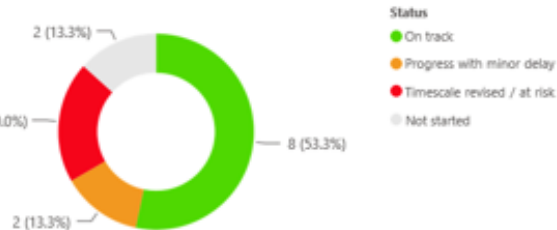
## Written Statement of Action (WSoA) Monitoring

Month  
December

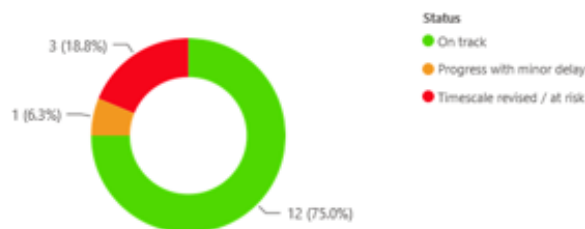
### Integrated Therapies Provision



### Neurodevelopmental Pathway



### Community Paediatrics



10. Progress against the WSoA will continue to be monitored through day-to-day project management, monthly reporting to the WSoA Group, and presentations at the SEND Improvement Board which continues to meet every 6-8 weeks.