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| Title of Meeting: | SEND Accountability Board |
| Date: | 1 April 2022 |
| Place: | Microsoft Teams Meeting |
| Times: | 10.00-11.30 |
| Membership: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Rachel Hood (RH)- Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills - Chair • Toni Wasag (TW) – Chair of Suffolk Parent Carer Forum • Cllr Jessica Fleming (JF) – Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee • Cllr Chris Chambers (CC), Suffolk County Council – Assistant Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills • Cllr James Reeder – Cabinet member for Children’s Services |
| Officers Accountable to the Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Cadzow (AC), Corporate Director CYP • Ros Somerville (RS), AD Inclusion |
| In Attendance: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Cook (SC), Executive Director for People Services • Nicola Beach (NB), Chief Executive |

| Item No. | Time | Item Description | Lead/ Attachment |
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| | | Apologies: Sue Cook, Sue Willgoss, Nicola Beach | |
| 1. | 10:00-10:15 | <p>Notes of last meeting (17 March 2022) and actions arising</p> <p>Annual Reviews – RS working on the process. Capacity increase will help as will improvements to database. TW said often delays caused by reports not being specific and quantified enough which is a system issue, not just an LA one. This is being picked up through partnership working group.</p> <p>Post 16 provision – RS and TW have not been able to meet as yet. P4 workstream lead coming to next meeting. TW had a useful meeting with Clive Mobbs from SCC Skills team.</p> | <p>RH</p> <p>Item 1 - Notes</p> |

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| | | <p>TW and SW are arranging to meet with Izzy Connell and Claire Darwin from Specialist Education Services.</p> <p>PEX actions have been completed as per previous notes.</p> <p>Issue re paying for transport when there is a managed move –</p> <p>Action AC to clarify with Jan Scott from Admissions what eligibility for transport is. Also same issue when child goes to an alternative provision.</p> <p>RS talked about the expansion of the Whole School Inclusion Team to support schools around preventing exclusions and also working differently with Alternative Provision so they can support schools on exclusion prevention. Raedwald Trust currently provide a traded offer. This is an obstacle for some schools so looking to see if some additional provision could be provided without charge to school.</p> <p>Action RS will find out how long applications for High Needs Funding take to be processed, how many have been applied for and how many awarded.</p> | |
| 2. | 10:15-10:25 | <p>Update on Complaints, Enquiries and LGCSO actions</p> <p>Complaints are not decreasing and are currently running at about 20 per month. Responses now completed on time 76%, up from 41%. Complaints are mainly about provision, particularly therapies.</p> <p>The new target for Annual Reviews of 4 weeks will lead to an increase in complaints in the short term as SCC are not resourced to do this at present. Schools and other providers will also have to change their processes to meet the clarified timescales.</p> <p>RS also pointed out that Tribunal system is receiving significantly more cases than can process each week leading to backlogs.</p> <p>Action AC and RS meeting with CCGs on 04/04 to look at therapies issue.</p> | <p>RS</p> <p>Item 2 - Dashboard</p> |
| 3. | 10:25-10:35 | Update on staffing and recruitment | RS |

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| | | <p>The 3 new Family Services Managers have started. Recruiting to new posts.</p> <p>Illness have increased at present in Family Services team</p> | |
| 4. | 10:35-10:45 | <p>Update on service performance</p> <p>20-week performance has dropped due to lack of EP capacity.</p> <p>The post 16 phase transfer due date was 31.03.22. Data on completion rate will be available shortly once it is verified.</p> | RS |
| 5. | 10:45-11.00 | <p>Draft Recommendations of CYP Scrutiny on 15th March</p> <p>See recommendations below:</p> <p>Agenda Item 5 – Review of Permanent and Fixed Term Exclusions</p> <p>The Committee thanked the witnesses for attending the meeting and for the information that they provided. The Committee commended Suffolk County Council Headteachers and Officers on the work being to encourage inclusivity in schools and to reduce exclusions rates in Suffolk.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>1. The Committee: a) Recommended to the Children and Young People Management Team: i) review the achievement and rates of exclusion for pupils from BAME backgrounds, including pupils from the traveller community, and the reasons for any disparities, and identify ways in which arrangements can be improved for this group of children and young people, including staff training, early intervention, and engagement with families.</p> <p>ii) provide further information on how Suffolk County Council’s £1.1million additional funding to the Family Services 2022-2023 budget, would be used to improve the capacity of SEND Family Services, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to deliver services to support children and families to reduce permanent exclusions and fixed term suspensions. • to develop the In Year Fair Access Protocol with school leaders and parent/carers, and establish sufficient support, an inclusive approach, and clear protocols on communications. • share ideas, good practice and learning on inclusivity, | <p>RS</p> <p>Item 5</p> <p>Scrutiny Paper</p>  <p>SCC Education Children Services Sci</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pool expertise and provide support to each other in addressing and meeting the needs of Suffolk children and young people; and improve liaison with families. iii) council services should continue to support the primary school sector to intervene early when children are at risk of exclusion, using the existing networks of primary schools to identify issues and solutions and systematically share best practice in inclusion. <p>communicate to all schools the range of support available to them around early interventions and exclusions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v) continue to enhance the promotion of the Inclusion Quality Mark through various means, including IQM advocates and school ambassadors beyond the 24 schools already signed up to IQM. vi) to explore with colleagues in Public Health the opportunities of developing a Suffolk Skills Register of community volunteers, which schools could utilise to provide capacity for extra mentoring and support for pupils <p>b) requested an Information Bulletin from the Head of Virtual School on the local live data on current exclusions rates in Suffolk, including a breakdown of the number of excluded pupils with an EHCP, SEN support and from BAME backgrounds. The Committee acknowledged that the current local data would not be comparative to national data and was mindful of the impact that covid would have on comparative data going forward. The national 2021-2022 data would be available in July 2022.</p> <p>c) agreed to feed into Suffolk County Council's response to the Department of Education's consultation on Revised Behaviour in Schools Guidance and Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Guidance, by supporting the key change "Duties to inform third parties of a suspension or exclusion expanded to include, for example, social workers and other professionals engaged in support the pupil."</p> <p>All recommendations are being taken forward.</p> <p>Action C is complete.</p> <p>Action Provide an update on progress at May SEND AB</p> <p>Progress on recommendations from December Scrutiny</p> <p>See attached report</p> | |
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| | | Action – TW and RS to meet with SENDIASS to explore how they can be even more helpful to parents and carers and get involved earlier. | |
| 6. | 11:00-11:15 | AOB Meeting to be set as close as possible to every 4 weeks apart. Need to set a meeting before end of April. PAs to action | |
| 7. | 11:15 | Forward Agenda Planning and Dates of Future: 29 April at 9.00-10.30 am Education White Paper and SEND and AP Green Paper 25 May 2022 at 8.30-10am Lead from Priority 4 to talk about Post 16 Provision 17 June 2022 at 10.00-11.30am 19 July 2022 at 1.30-3pm 18 Aug 2022 at 10.00-11.30am 19 Sept 2022 at 12.30-2pm 21 Oct 2022 at 1.30-3pm 18 Nov 2022 at 1.30-3pm 16 Dec 2022 at 12.00-1.30pm | |