

Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Board: June 23 stakeholder update

Following the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) local area inspection undertaken by Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) between 30 January 2023 to 3 February 2023, the SEND Partnership Improvement Board has been established to oversee SEND improvement activity in Nottinghamshire, with a focus on improvements identified in the inspection report.

The aim of the Board is to provide both support and challenge across the partnership, facilitating solution-focussed practice to resolve issues and barriers that impact on the timely delivery of the Nottinghamshire SEND Improvement Programme. The Board will ensure that the SEND Improvement Programme achieves its aims with the required pace and ownership of partner members, whilst maintaining a relentless focus on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire.

Introduction about Board and Terms of Reference

The Chair, Dame Christine Lenehan, welcomed members to the first meeting of the Board. Board members took the opportunity to outline their experiences, roles and responsibilities that will contribute to the effective functioning of the Board.

The draft Terms of Reference were discussed and updates were made to ensure agencies provided a designated deputy and to clarify the role of the Board in relation to overseeing wider SEND improvement activity in Nottinghamshire.

Success for SEND improvement in Nottinghamshire

The Chair reflected on the complexity of the SEND landscape and the Board agreed the goals and success criteria for Nottinghamshire:

- Successfully delivering the areas for priority action (APAs) and areas for improvement identified by CQC/Ofsted:
- Successfully delivering wider SEND improvement and re-shaping service delivery in Nottinghamshire, utilising this opportunity as a springboard for widespread change across all areas of SEND provision (not limited to the inspection feedback)
- A positive change to the leadership culture and SEND governance in Nottinghamshire, ensuring that improvements are made by the partnership because it is the right thing for children, young people, parents and carers – not just because of the inspection report
- Collective recognition that while we cannot meet the needs of all children, young people, parents and carers in Nottinghamshire, we must have the

shared confidence and assurance that we are meeting the need we can, with the resources we have, within the partnership we have.

- Building and sustaining trust from parents and families, ensuring that we genuinely listen and respond to the voice of children, young people, parents and carers.

Progress to date – SEND improvement spotlight report

A spotlight report which shows month-on-month change and improvement was shared with the Board. The Board discussed additional things that should be added to the report, including impact measures and impact assessment mechanisms to provide greater assurance of the Partnership's current position. It was also agreed that a Partnership Engagement and Communication Plan should run in parallel with improvement activity.

Summary

The Board reflected that the improvement work relies on individuals, engagement ambition and the commitment of those working within the Partnership.

The next meeting will take place on 27 July.

Improvement Board attendees

- Dame Christine Lenehan: Independent Chair, Council for Disabled Children
- Paul Roberts: Head of Vulnerable Children's Unit East Midlands, Department for Education
- Nick Harrison: Senior Adviser, NHS England (NHSE)
- Georgina Palmer: Lead of Nottinghamshire Parent/Carer Forum, Nottinghamshire Parent/Carer Forum
- Paul Heery: Chief Executive Officer, White Hills Park Trust
- Rosa Waddingham: Director of Nursing & Joint SRO of the SEND Improvement Programme, NHS Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board
- Cllr Tracey Taylor: Lead Member, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Colin Pettigrew: Corporate Director, Children and Families & Joint SRO of the SEND Improvement Programme, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Melanie Williams: Corporate Director, Adult Social Care & Public Health and Member of Integrated Care Partnership Board, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Heather Bennett: Executive Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Natasha Wrzesinski: SEND Improvement Programme Manager, NHS Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board *and* Nottinghamshire County Council