

Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Board: 20 October 2023 stakeholder update.

Following the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision local area inspection undertaken by Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) in early 2023, the SEND Partnership Improvement Board has been established to oversee SEND improvement activity across the whole system in Nottinghamshire, with a focus on the priorities and areas for improvements identified in the [inspection report](#). The Board meets monthly and is chaired independently by Dame Christine Lenehan, formerly Director Council for Disabled Children. For the period Oct – December 2023, the Board will be chaired by Deputy Deborah Glassbrook, who is also the Local Government Association SEND Improvement Advisor.

The aim of the Nottinghamshire SEND Improvement Board is to robustly track, monitor and oversee the Nottinghamshire SEND Improvement Programme so that the aims are achieved at pace and provide challenge and support to increase the likelihood of the aims being achieved.

The purpose of these stakeholder briefings is to update you on progress of the SEND Improvement Programme so you can share the work that is taking place via your networks. You can see previous [stakeholder briefings](#) from Improvement Board meetings from June 2023 onwards.

The most recent Board meeting took place on 20 October with a particular focus on the Priority Action Two and statements of intent.

[Spotlight on area for priority action 2](#)

Updates to services:

- Speech and language therapy – capacity has been added with additional staff recruited. Expansion of service to reduce waiting times, with the impact expected to be seen over the next couple of months.
- Increasing capacity in neurodevelopmental service with two Clinical Psychologists and an Assistant Psychologist commencing at Bassetlaw hospital, a Clinical Psychologist based in the community paediatric team commencing at Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, and a specialist practitioner starting within the Neurodevelopmental Behaviour Service for 12 months. This has significantly reduced waiting times and further improvement is expected.

- Triaging has improved for families' neurodevelopmental pathway and people are being given information to support them at each stage of the journey.
- Full system redesign is underway with both Speech and Language and neurodevelopmental pathways. Co-production with families, children and young people will be key to this.
- Commissioners from across the Integrated Care System have collaborated to identify and understand the delays, duplication in offer and gaps in access to therapy services. There is commitment from all commissioning bodies to work together to make pathways more efficient and effective through integrated working.

2 areas for further work on:

- Workforce / workforce planning – will work as a system to take this forward.
- Information governance – sharing of data across the system/partners.

Understanding the data:

- There was an update provided about system data as part of priority action 2.
- Data analysts are looking at a range of data sources and how this can be centralised so it can be used to support the planning and improvement of SEND services via a dashboard. The aspiration is to get to a point where more in-depth individual data is being incorporated so issues like health inequalities can be analysed.

Statements of intent

A statement of intent was agreed to enable an effective culture of co-production with children, young people and families when commissioning services:

- 1) We will listen to the views of parents, carers and children and young people with SEND and use these to improve our services and support.
- 2) We are committed to working together with families, schools and services as equal partners to make positive changes for children and young people with SEND.
- 3) We will create opportunities for families to engage in our improvement journey and in the longer term.
- 4) We will keep parents, carers, children, young people, and other stakeholders informed throughout our improvement journey.
- 5) We are making positive changes, but we know we still have a long way to go.

Enhancing parental confidence in Nottinghamshire SEND improvements

Georgina Palmer, Lead of Nottinghamshire Parent/Carer Forum, carried out a survey with parents and carers about what can strengthen and weaken parental confidence.

Many parents fed back that they wanted to be kept informed. Some parents reported feeling disconnected. The survey results and case study examples were discussed with the Board.

The Board thanked Georgina for pulling the information together and a commitment was made to share the results of the survey with stakeholders involved in the improvement plan.

The next SEND Improvement Board meeting will take place on Friday 24 November (2 – 4pm).

Improvement Board attendees

- Deborah Glassbrook – Deputy Chair
- Councillor Tracey Taylor - Lead Member for Children and Families at Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nick Harrison - Senior Programme Manager, Children and Young People and SEND, NHS England (NHSE)
- Rebecca Hogan - SEND Professional Adviser, Department for Education
- Georgina Palmer - Lead of Nottinghamshire Parent/Carer Forum, Nottinghamshire Parent/Carer Forum
- Paul Heery - Chief Executive Officer, White Hills Park Trust
- Matt Rooney - Principal, St Giles School
- Colin Pettigrew - Corporate Director, Children and Families & Joint SRO of the SEND Improvement Programme, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nicola Ryan - Deputy Chief Nurse, NHS Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) (attending on behalf of Rosa Waddingham, Joint SRO)
- Natasha Mathers - SEND Improvement Programme Manager, ICB and Nottinghamshire County Council
- Sarah Dalgress - SEND Improvement Programme Business Support Administrator, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Julie Cuthbert - Head of Communications, ICB
- Karon Foulkes – Head of Maternity, Children's Commissioning and Transformation, ICB
- Helen Lappin - Deputy Head of Children's Commissioning and Transformation, ICB
- Charlotte Reading - Head of Learning Disabilities and Autism Transformation and Commissioning, ICB
- Maxine Bunn - Associate Director for Mental Health and Children's Commissioning, ICB (attending on behalf of Lucy Dadge)
- Holly Shuttleworth - SEND Improvement Project Manager, ICB

- Charlotte Mather - Project Manager, System Analytics Intelligence Unit (SAIU), ICB
- James Norris - SAIU Children and Young People Analyst, ICB
- Simon Frampton - Head of Quality Performance Insights, SAIU, ICB