

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	SEND Improvement Plan
Meeting date	7 June 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	Following submission of BCP Council and Dorset's Clinical Commissioning Group's Written Statement of Action (WSOA), monitoring visits will be held every three months. The Department for Education (DfE) will use these meetings to scrutinise progress towards the delivery of the WSoA. This paper summarises the information given to the DfE during the first monitoring meeting. Feedback from DfE is due imminently.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Members remain updated with progress towards the delivery of the WSoA.
Reason for recommendations	Members should be aware of the updates made to the delivery of the Written Statement of Action as BCP Council is under scrutiny from Ofsted and DfE.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Nicola Greene, Portfolio Holder for Council Priorities and Delivery
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Director of Children's Services
Report Authors	Sarah Rempel, Director of Education & Skills
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Update

Background

1. Following the local area SEND inspection in June 2021, BCP Council and Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group were required to develop and submit a Written Statement of Action. The Written Statement was submitted to Ofsted in December 2021 and was passed as fit for purpose. This plan has now subsumed the previous SEND Improvement Plan.

Scrutiny

2. Regular monitoring meetings will take place with colleagues from the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted. The first of these meetings was held in April 2022, where we had to demonstrate that we have made sufficient progress against the eight areas of significant weakness.
3. Formal feedback from the DfE noted:

“The local area has started work at pace on the activity described in their written statement of action, with delivery groups and governance arrangements now in place. Leaders report that the SEND improvement board are providing challenge where required. Progress in activity in all 8 key concerns is evident. In the majority of cases, risks of delays are documented and mitigating actions agreed.”

“At present, no evidence of impact of the actions undertaken is available. The local area has established a SEND intelligence and data group and agreed a governance framework for SEND data which includes both internal and external partners. The written statement of action monitoring framework is part of this work and looks to answer three questions: ‘how much we did’, ‘how well we did it’ and ‘what difference it has made’, (impact). Considering the initial findings of this data gathering will be a focus in the next monitoring meeting.”

Summary of financial implications

4. Funding the delivery of the actions will be found in the Medium-Term Financial Plan. In addition, a bid for Transformation funding will be made for IT options.

Summary of legal implications

5. Failure to make sufficient progress against the areas of significant weakness could lead to BCP Council being issued a Statutory Direction from the Secretary of State for Education and the service being taken over.

Summary of human resources implications

6. We are recruiting several new posts to support the delivery of the Written Statement.

Summary of sustainability impact

7. No impact on sustainability

Summary of public health implications

8. None.

Summary of equality implications

9. No EIA undertaken.

Summary of risk assessment

10. Risks are as set out in point 4.

Background papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – SEND Improvement WSoA Monitoring Updates