



Isle of Wight SEND Partnership Board

	Monday 27 th January 2025, 9:30am
	Hybrid – Conference room 3 (County Hall) and Microsoft Teams

Name	Initial	Role	Organisation
Adeline Gibbs	AG	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Advisor	NHS South East region
Amie Cass	AC	PA to Strategic Director of Children's Services	Isle of Wight Council
Anthony Harper (Chair)	AH	Deputy Director for Children's Care	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Ashley Whittaker	AW	Strategic Director of Children's Services	Isle of Wight Council
Cally Wareham	CW	Cluster Lead for Children and Young People Services	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
Claire Collins	CC	Service Manager	Autism Inclusion Matters (AIM)
Daron Perkins	DP	Service Manager Adult Social Care (Learning Disability and Mental Health Services including transitions)	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Debbie Andre	DA	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health	Isle of Wight Council
Emma Meek	EM	Senior Delivery Manager for Children's Care	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Heather Morris	HM	Strategic Manager SEN and Inclusion	Isle of Wight Council
Jade Kennett	JK	Service Manager Strategic Development	Isle of Wight Council
Jo Dare	JD	CEO	Youth Trust Isle of Wight
Cllr Jonathan Bacon	JB	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Isle of Wight Council
Laura Groves	LG	Assistant Director of Children's Services (Barnardos)	Barnardos & Isle of Wight Family Centres
Mark McCurrie	MM	Independent SEND advisor for Safety Valve Agreement	Commissioned by Department for Education (DfE)
Matthew Powell	MP	Associate Director: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities / Designated Clinical Officer	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Naomi Carter	NC	Service Director for Education, Inclusion and Access	Isle of Wight Council
Rachel Burden	RB	Senior Transformation Manager for Maternity and Child Health	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Samantha Rooney	SR	Assistant Principal	Isle of Wight College
Simon Homes	SH	Service Director (Quality Assurance and Practice Development) – Adult Social Care	Isle of Wight Council

<div data-bbox="143 280 268 430"> 1. ____ 2. ____ 3. ____ </div> <div data-bbox="869 304 1030 347"> Minutes </div>	<div data-bbox="1899 304 2056 347"> Actions </div>
<div data-bbox="98 475 152 507"> 1 . </div> <div data-bbox="192 475 795 512"> Welcomes, introductions and apologies </div> <div data-bbox="192 512 999 549"> A round of introductions were made and apologies noted. </div> <div data-bbox="192 585 952 622"> Update on education provider representation (NC) </div> <div data-bbox="192 622 1727 767"> NC raised that we need more education representatives on this board. Do we want a representative from a special school, Primary and Secondary? MM suggested at least primary and secondary headteachers group, Early Years and voluntary sector representation. NC to send out EOI to schools and organisations for representatives. </div>	<div data-bbox="1798 475 2145 655"> AC to send NC the Terms of Reference and dates for the year's meetings – Now complete </div> <div data-bbox="1798 683 2145 788"> NC to send out an expression of interest to schools – Now complete </div> <div data-bbox="1798 815 2152 920"> All to send any invitee changes to AC (Amie.Cass@iow.gov.uk) </div>

2.	<p>Insights from young people</p> <p>There is no representation today from a young person. A.H asked any thoughts from young people's perspective?</p> <p>CC shared that she has had some feedback from young people who are awaiting autism assessments. CC said that she had heard assessments are taking place online only and that the NHS are no longer providing face to face assessments.</p> <p>On 28/01 EM shared online with the group the following message:</p> <p>In response to the question raised in yesterday's SEND Partnership Board meeting, relating to Autism assessments and whether they have all moved to online, please see the response from our NHS Strategic Lead for Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodiversity:</p> <p><i>Whilst we acknowledge that online assessments are more cost effective, we would never prioritise cost over safety. The lower cost does allow us to purchase more assessments overall, as long as the online assessment method is safe and NICE compliant. The commissioned model does allow for a proportion of face-to-face assessments where a person cannot access online, or their needs aren't suitable for a robust online assessment. All services now routinely offer online assessments - including Patient Choice services, but this is not the only option available.</i></p>	<p>EM will find out further information and revert back - Complete</p>
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3.	<p>Update on the parent carer forum and interim arrangements (10 mins)</p> <p>HM and EM met with Contact's Olivia Newbolt, who is the Operational Lead and regional advisor across the East and South East. HM gave her an update about the Parent Carer Forum dissolving and a history of the PCF. HM discussed at the last SEND Partnership Board about having open sessions, starting in the Spring term. Olivia felt holding the sessions would be a sensible approach. HM met again with her last week and has a session with our new advisor, Sue, booked in for next week.</p> <p>A holding date of the 14th March has been booked in at the Riverside Centre and we could have either morning or afternoon session. This would be a listening session to gain views about SEND on the Island whilst we do not have a PCF. HM will draft a letter that can be sent out to parents and partners. Sue will be a lead person to support with this. Sessions will be scheduled throughout the next 6-12 months. It will also be an opportunity to start the process of establishing a new PCF.</p> <p>DA added that it would be good to have the initial session led by the parents and carers, but using the session to identify the key priorities from them.</p> <p>CC asked if there has been any alternative solutions, such as having a temporary Parent Carer Forum from another local area step in. HM explained that the recommendation from the regional advisor was to hold a session in this way to listen to parents and then from that session we may know whether there is a group that wants to be established. Any requests for setting up a new PCF group will need to be approved by them and there are robust measures to ensure the group can be sustained. The details of the listening sessions will be in the letter, along with details of how to get involved.</p> <p>JD raised that there may need to be a need to offer opportunities for parent meetings outside of 9-5 hours. HM and NC confirmed that evening, weekend and daytime sessions were planned prior to the group disbanding but the same will be offered should we have a new setup for the PCF.</p>	<p>HM to draft a letter about the upcoming sessions in the next couple of days.</p>
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<p>4.</p>	<p>Preparation for the Local Area SEND Inspection (15 mins):</p> <p>Self-Evaluation Framework document: HM is currently looking at updating the Self-Evaluation document, so it is more reflective of where we are since last shared in September. As the document was co-produced, other members of the board will need to take responsibility for providing amendments and updates for their respective areas. Some future work and information from the LGA SEND Peer challenge report will need to be added. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.</p> <p>CW stated that in terms of therapies, some of her teams have moved forward quite a lot, and so this will need to be updated in the document.</p> <p>HM shared that colleagues across Education, Health and Care had been meeting fortnightly up until Christmas. There have been changes to staffing in the Council and in Health, but meetings will be re-established. They had been going through the Annex A documentation and auditing it to ensure everything is included and the information is as up to date as possible. The statutory team has been using the audit tool as well. Inspection dry-runs will be scheduled in.</p> <p>HM has been linking in with other local authorities who have recently had their Local Area SEND Inspections. This is to look at their experience but also how the structure of their teams supported the inspection. We still do not have a Designated Social Care Officer, but leaders are working on a solution for this</p> <p>Performance Dashboard: HM met with the Data and Insights Team, a template data dashboard was shared with us after the last meeting. This can be used as a template and some areas where we would like more information included has been identified. AH suggested a workshop together between the Council and Health, to look at a joint up dashboard. AG wanted to ask around the dashboard being reflective of the SEND Strategy. NC and HM have been working on a new SEND area plan which will incorporate all of the actions from the LGA SEND Peer challenge and the Safety Valve agreement as well as other insights such as those received from families</p>	<p>CW to discuss Self-Assessment updates with EM.</p> <p>HM to liaise with Health colleagues for representation in the regular meetings re: Local Area SEND Inspection</p>
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5. Updated SEND Transformation Plan:

Pathways into adulthood (15 mins) – Daron Perkins

DP shared a presentation about Pathways into Adulthood:

What is working well?

- Good relationship with Children's Services, Education and Health teams.
- Well embedded Preparing for Adulthood meeting which monitors young people coming through.
- Positive review of transition arrangements following the LGA SEND Peer challenge.
- Experienced staff, many of whom have experience in Children's Services.
- Numerous young people that have come through recently are now living in independent living and one individual purchased their own property.
- Increased independent living opportunities

What needs to happen?

- The referral form is being re-designed to become more strengths-based and user friendly, also to provide all the information needed.
- Looking to change the name to 'Preparing for Adulthood' so people understand what the service is for.
- Care documentation will be redesigned to make it more accessible, and this will be done with people and their families.
- Engaging with Children's Services staff to identify financial entitlements
- Engaging with Children's Services staff to increase awareness of the need to consider capacity issues earlier on preparation for turning 18.
- Linking in with the Isle of Wight Dynamic Support Register (for children) which was a recommendation from the LGA SEND Peer challenge.
- Strengthen relationships with Education and ensure engagement with Adult Social Care prior to Education placement decisions requiring Social Care input.
- Improve attendance at Preparing for Adulthood meetings.

DA asked a question about numbers of young people coming through for this service and the degree of complexities. DP confirmed that between 10-15 reach age 18 per year. DA shared that the degree of complexities are increasing as they are in every system. Some complexities are young people on the verge of the Criminal Justice System.

HM explained that now there is a different structure within the statutory team, the SEND Manager will be part of those meetings. HM emphasized the importance of recognizing the prevailing belief on the Island that Education, Health, and Care Plans should continue until age 25, but clarified that this is only necessary if there are ongoing educational outcomes to be achieved.

There have been examples of successful joint working to transition young people into pathways that are meaningful and appropriate for them. Sometimes it is not necessary to keep an education focus where some young people could be supported via transitions pathways.

MM added that it would be interesting to look at the Island strategy for internships and apprenticeships, and how often these lead to paid employment for young people.

AW added that if you look at any Local Authorities around the country, preparing for adulthood is an area where everyone needs to do a lot more work. It is really important to have integrated joint working between all services and to identify pathways earlier on, as creating the right employment or supported accommodation pathways can take years sometimes. AW also mentioned the need to have a dashboard that captures all the information we need, such as average cost of homes.

Additionally, training between adult social care and children's social care is important to help understand each other's worlds and the legislation that each service is working to, i.e the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act. This also helps colleagues manage family's expectations of the support they will receive.

AW highlighted the gap in support for young people who don't have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) but still need assistance, especially when it comes to transitioning into the workplace. There needs to be further considerations for linking services such as No Barriers with our post-16 teams. AW said it is great to hear that conversations are happening, such as the one at the Youth Trust Youth Conference, to address these broader needs. Building strong links with employers and other post-16 teams can make a significant difference.

JD raised that DWP has regular surgeries within the Youth Trust hub, although this work wouldn't always be appropriate for all young people moving into employment, it could be beneficial for some of them. Young people without EHCPs still need to be factored in as part of the wider preparing for adulthood agenda, as they may not come through to the Adult Social Care transitions team.

Educational psychology provision (10 mins)

NC shared updates on the Educational Psychology (EP) service. At the moment, we are continuing our attempts to recruit. So far we have recruited one EP and we will provide additional supervision externally as this is a requirement for them to keep their accreditation. This person will be starting the role in September, as they are newly qualifying from University.

NC is meeting with Human Resources colleagues and the media team to organise the launch of a new campaign to recruit for EPs. NC also put a post on social media asking for feedback on why recruitment is difficult on the Island. Lots of useful feedback was received from this and it will help inform the recruitment strategy.

Locum EP's have been recruited to undertake the statutory assessment work. This initially was planned to last for 4 months, ending in April, however this will need to continue until the Summer. HM has been leading on this work and shared that initially 120 assessments were commissioned which should be sufficient to manage the backlog of EP advice that is required as part of each new EHCP assessment. This would also manage the average number of new assessments that are requested on a monthly basis. This work started last week.

HM shared that she is confident the backlog will be cleared by the end of April, if not sooner. There are 10 allocated EP's who are working on this via a virtual platform. This has been one solution to overcoming the challenges of being an Island. Virtual assessments may come with their own challenges, however there are arrangements with an independent provider to quality assure the assessments.

CC said that there have been some questions raised as to why available independent EP's on the Island haven't been commissioned to do any of the work.

NC explained that a procurement process was initiated which included multiple providers to ensure qualified professionals are employed.

NC also shared that we have an independent EP working on the Island providing ELSA support for schools, but this is a separate arrangement.

Outcome of review of therapy provision and new arrangements (15 mins) – Rachel Burden

A review of therapies has been going on for around a year and a half. As CCG's merged together under one ICB, RB has looking at the equity of provision provided across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and IOW. This is mainly around Physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. More recently, RB has also looked at podiatry, orthotics and Musculoskeletal physiotherapy. Work has been undertaken between with the Island team around Speech and Language therapy and how this is currently being provided between the Local Authority and IOW NHS trust.

There is no outcome yet as, RB explained she is awaiting some procurement decisions. RB expressed that she is keen to move forward with procuring the new service which will help ensure children access therapy services much earlier than they are currently. The speech and language team is a credit to the Island.

RB has been working with Emma and Heather to identify who is providing what at the moment and what NHS services should be providing. A good outcome has been achieved through this and training for schools and parents will be in the new specification.

CW added that it would be good to reassure the team around when the new specification will be available. RB is hoping for a procurement decision in the next couple of weeks.

CW shared that at his time last year, there were 84 children waiting longer than 18 weeks, this year there are only 3 who have been waiting for 18+ weeks for occupational therapy. Access to OT has vastly improved over the last year.

HM added that the speech and language team that sits within the local authority currently holds responsibility for the statutory duties during EHCP assessments. We need to consider what the future specification from the NHS looks like as we need to

plan for our budgets and staffing within the council. HM said there is pressure on the team to fulfil statutory timescales, as there are staff vacancies that we do not yet know if we should be advertising for.

RB clarified that things will not change overnight and could take months or up to a full academic year to embed the new provider into the system. There will also be a full comms plan to ensure people know how to refer into the service and the changes are understood by everyone.

AW wanted to highlight that although this change will not happen quickly, he believes this will be really positive for children and young people on the Island and that it is fabulous that the need for earlier intervention is being recognised. CW's example is a reminder that every day there are people working really hard to try and change things for the Island community.

Other actions arising from the LGA SEND Peer Challenge (15 mins) – Heather Morris

Looking at the review of EHCP's report from the LGA, we have taken a number of actions so far. From a statutory team perspective, we now have a SEND Manager in post who started at the end of September. This has helped enable the development of best practice in the team. She has been able to do a dip sample of EHCP's in addition to the LGA. The formatting of plans have been looked at and training has been provided to all staff about writing good quality and outstanding plans and what outstanding plans look like according to the Children with disabilities Council ([Education, Health and Care \(EHC\) Plans: Examples of good practice](#)) and the CQC.

Casework officers in the statutory team have completed or have booked on the IPSEA legal training.

The Education, Health and Care assessment panel is following a more robust approach and positive feedback has been received about this although this was challenging to begin with.

The recommendations from the LGA have been incorporated into the SEND transformation plan and that will link to the Safety Valve work. NC shared a draft version of the SEND transformation plan. The voices of stakeholders (including parents/carers, young people, voluntary sector) will be included as it is really important this is done collectively and not in isolation. This is a huge piece of work and AW thanked NC and everyone who has been compiling this information.

6.	<p>Actions from previous meeting not otherwise covered (10 mins) including:</p> <p>Workforce Board</p> <p>Laura Gaudion updated us at the last meeting on the Workforce Board. This meeting brings together the public sector and how we can make the Island an attractive place to work. AW will be ensuring the challenges around SEND and EP's are included within this board.</p> <p>Competency framework</p> <p>We need to ensure this links to the transformation plan and people have access to the training they need. CC had raised a question previously about the cancelled DfE sessions that young people were due to have. HM took this to the DfE in January as part of the conversations around the March sessions that are planned. There were 3 workshops planned last time but now they feel that the RISE Project could be incorporated into the planned March session.</p>	
7.	<p>Any other business (5 mins)</p> <p>Youth Conference</p> <p>AW wanted to mention that the Island's High Sheriff, Graham Biss, has been championing children, young people and youth work. He is bringing together the voluntary sector providers in the youth sector. Graham and colleagues in children's service are organising a conference at the Riverside Centre on the 3rd June, called 'Together for Children, Partnership and Collaboration'. The aim of this is to bring together all the youth organisations on the Island, celebrate the great work and discuss needs of children on the Island, and agree next steps. A save the date will be coming out soon.</p> <p>Parent/Carer and Local Authority communication</p> <p>CC said that parents are raising concerns about phone calls not being answered or returned from the SEN department. AW shared that there is a very high number of correspondence received from parents and carers. If this question is around the</p>	

	<p>statutory team, sometimes around 30 assessment requests are received per month and this generates a large amount of work. AW stated that when the system is not working as smoothly as we would like, this leads to more dissatisfaction which in turn leads to more correspondence from parents. AW explained that the route to solving this issue is in delivering a high quality system, which is the service's priority. AW is confident that over time, parental satisfaction will increase as processes improve.</p> <p>GM explained that calls into SENDIASS are tracked and that there has been a rise in calls from families about poor communication with the Local Authority, and this made up 21% of calls to SENDIASS in October-December. AW said this data around how parents and carers feel about the system, must be included within our performance dashboard.</p>	
	<p>Forward plan for March</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated SEF 2. Performance dashboard 3. SEND Transformation Plan 	