

SEND & AP Partnership Board – 12th December 2023

Date and Time: 12/12/2023

Location: MS Teams

Topics Covered:

- SEND Strategic Scorecard: Swindon is significantly above the national benchmark for timeliness of statutory assessments, however continues to see an increase in the number of requests for Mediation and Tribunal.
- Quality Assurance of the graduated response: This is an audit undertaken to make sure that schools are providing enough support as part of the graduated response, and that it is evidenced as part of a request for statutory needs assessment. Recent audits show examples of great practice, however also highlighted the lack of person-centred focus, especially the lack of the child's voice throughout paperwork.
- Change Programme Partnership: A national programme run by the Department for Education, where selected Local Authorities are testing out new SEND Reforms. Swindon's Local Area Inclusion Plan is currently being drafted, and the Department for Education are currently working with the National Parent Carer Forum on some communications – these will go out to families to help explain what the programme is hoping to achieve.
- Designated Clinical Officer's Reports: An accumulation of reports produced by the Designated Clinical Officers. In response, training is to be scheduled for EHCP Co-ordinators regarding writing health advice into EHCPs, and a dry run inspection is to be explored.
- Memorandum of Understanding (a formal agreement) for the Delivering Better Value grant has been signed off, and funding is expected to be received in the new year.

Decisions Made:

- Terms of Reference for this board were agreed by members.

Areas of Achievement:

- Swindon has seen a reduction in the number of pupils with an EHCP being Permanently Excluded.
- Positive feedback given by Swindon SEND Families Voice regarding the SEND Service, and how great of a job they are doing.
- Swindon have been lobbying the Department for Education well, particularly regarding safeguarding concerns with the new EHCP Template.

Areas of Improvement:

- Parents are experiencing survey fatigue, and so services need to be conscious of this when collecting feedback.