

Somerset Local Area SEND Improvement

Findings and outcomes of a self-assessment of SEND arrangements in readiness for an Ofsted inspection



Between 10th-14th June 2019 the CCG and Local Authority carried out an internal review of the Somerset's progress in implementing the Children & Families Act 2014 for children & young people with SEND and their families.

Purpose:

- To prepare for the Ofsted/ CQC SEND Local Area inspection
- Demonstrate that we know ourselves well, we are clear about strengths and areas for developments, and have actions to address any gaps
- Allow dedicated time across partners to get together to think about what Ofsted Inspectors are likely to ask and ensure those likely to be interviewed feel better informed
- Opportunity to celebrate good and outstanding practice
- Test our logistical arrangements for inspection



Approach

- Other Local Area SEND inspection outcomes used to inform focus areas for review - 5 themes identified as potential KLOE's (Key Lines of Enquiry)
 - Early Help & SEN support
 - Joint commissioning in Information, advice and Guidance (Local Offer)
 - Autism strategy and pathways
 - Children missing education(CME), exclusions , attainment and progress
 - Children in specific circumstances – CLA and those in Youth Justice
 - ...plus
 - Case auditing and observations of statutory decision making
 - Overview of West Somerset Opportunity Area
- Meetings held with leaders from the Local Area for health, social care and education
 - No onsite clinical or schools' visits conducted as part of the review, to minimise disruption



What happened?



56 people came together in 5 themed sessions



Over 25 meetings held (112 hours)



15 Local Area Ofsted reports reviewed in depth



Progress in delivery of SEND strategy reviewed



Self evaluation against Code of Practice - 80 updates to SEF



Over 80 Governors briefed on Local Area SEND Inspection



What participants said.....



Everyone found it useful and felt they progressed their understanding of Local Area effectiveness - scores went from 2.8 to 3.7



Themed approach added depth and quality to the discussions



Using reports from other areas supported better understanding of the breadth and depth of SEND Local area inspections, some made for difficult reading



Honest, sometimes difficult conversations



"There's so much we do that we need to know about. It would be great to have some 'Our Service' briefings at SMT"



"Good to review the Ofsted reports and look at what other areas have done"



"Was feeling slightly overwhelmed, however I feel more confident in what we are doing as a service and what good practice we can show, as well as developments in place for the next academic year"



Outputs & Outcomes



New data pack based on most up to date National and Regional data to inform planning and commissioning



Refreshed Position Statement



Updated presentation pack for Ofsted/CQC audit



The **You** started to become the **we**



*We know ourselves better,
we know our risks and we
have clear themes for
activity and action*



What we do well - Our strengths across the Local Area

Support for parents and carers is good - Somerset Parent Carer forum have an extensive reach across all parents and SENDIASS services are well used

Unstoppable Young People champions influence and raise awareness

Co-production influences strategy

Leaders are beginning to understand the Local Area well and partnership is strengthening

Joint working is improving - Local Area benefits from having DMO and DCO

New Local Offer is increasing in use

Investment in schools in nationally recognized

Support for inclusion in early years settings and schools in valued



Overview of challenges across the Local Area

We are over reliant on individuals and their knowledge and we make things more complicated than they need to be

We collect and listen to feedback but we don't use it

Partners and schools are not clear on or fulfilling statutory duties- we don't do some of the basics well and this is not consistently business as usual

Governance structures are not effective - the processes for leaders to agree priorities are not in place and accountability is not clear and weak

Identifying, assessing and meeting needs across the Local area, including schools, is inconsistent

Services are not equitable or easy to access – they are often arranged and delivered by age and differ by area

There is not a shared understanding of SEND and what this means across services, and communities

Parents lack confidence in the Local area services including how schools identify and meet needs and are unclear how to access support

The Local Offer is not well enough developed to support parents/ carers and young people to help themselves; information is often out of date and technical difficulties impede access

Access to information and services is often constrained by rural nature of Somerset - we have to work harder to be equitable (with an over reliance on Internet solutions)





7 Priorities for SEND Improvement

Improve governance arrangements within the local area to hold leaders to account to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND

Increase joint commissioning across the local area

Improve consistency of application of the local area's strategy for identifying, assessment and meeting the needs of children & young people across the partnership

Strengthen the Local Offer

Improve the time taken to issue Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) and the overall quality of Plans

Improve our approach to supporting the mental health and emotional well-being of children and young people with SEND

Improve our identification, assessment, diagnosis and support of those children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)



Next steps



Building our shared understanding of current effectiveness and improvements required



Refining our logistical arrangements to support a Local Area inspection



Collecting good quality evidence to measure and demonstrate our strengths and overall effectiveness



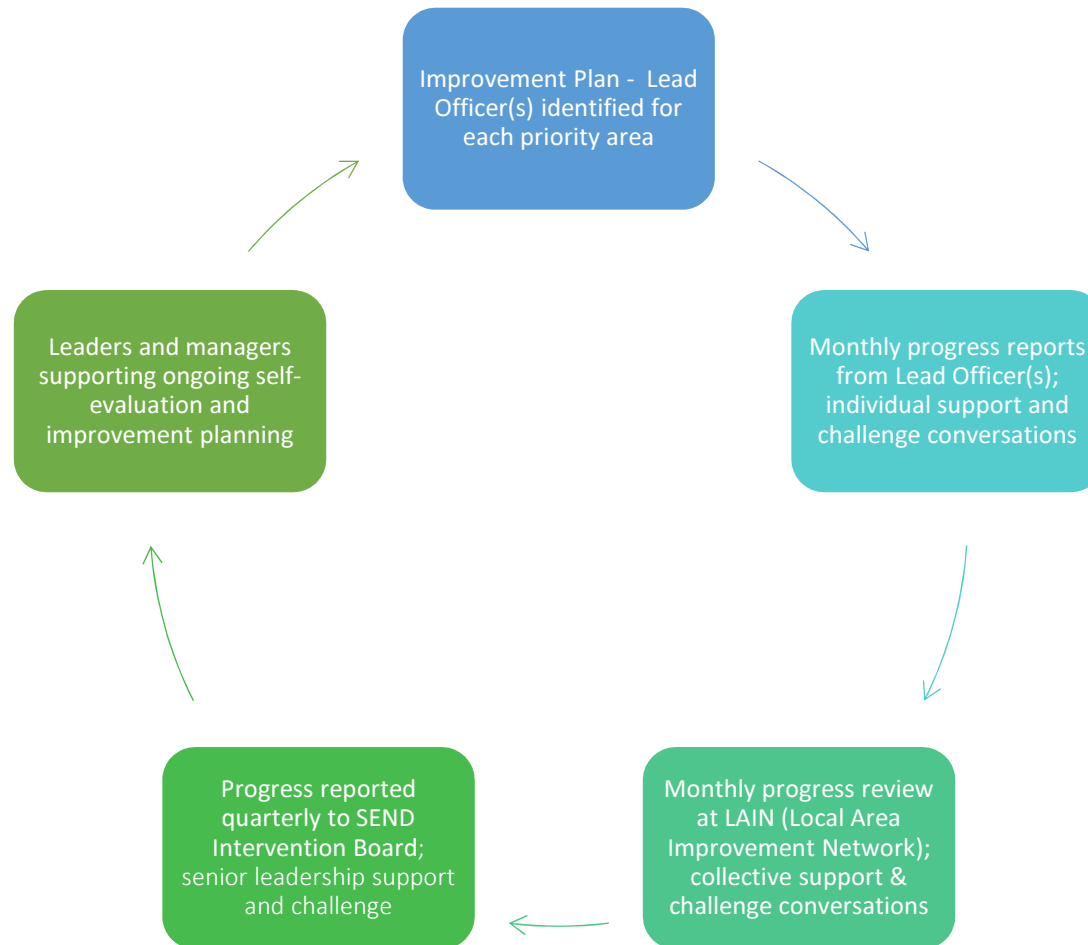
Developing a SEND Improvement Plan, focussed on the seven priority areas



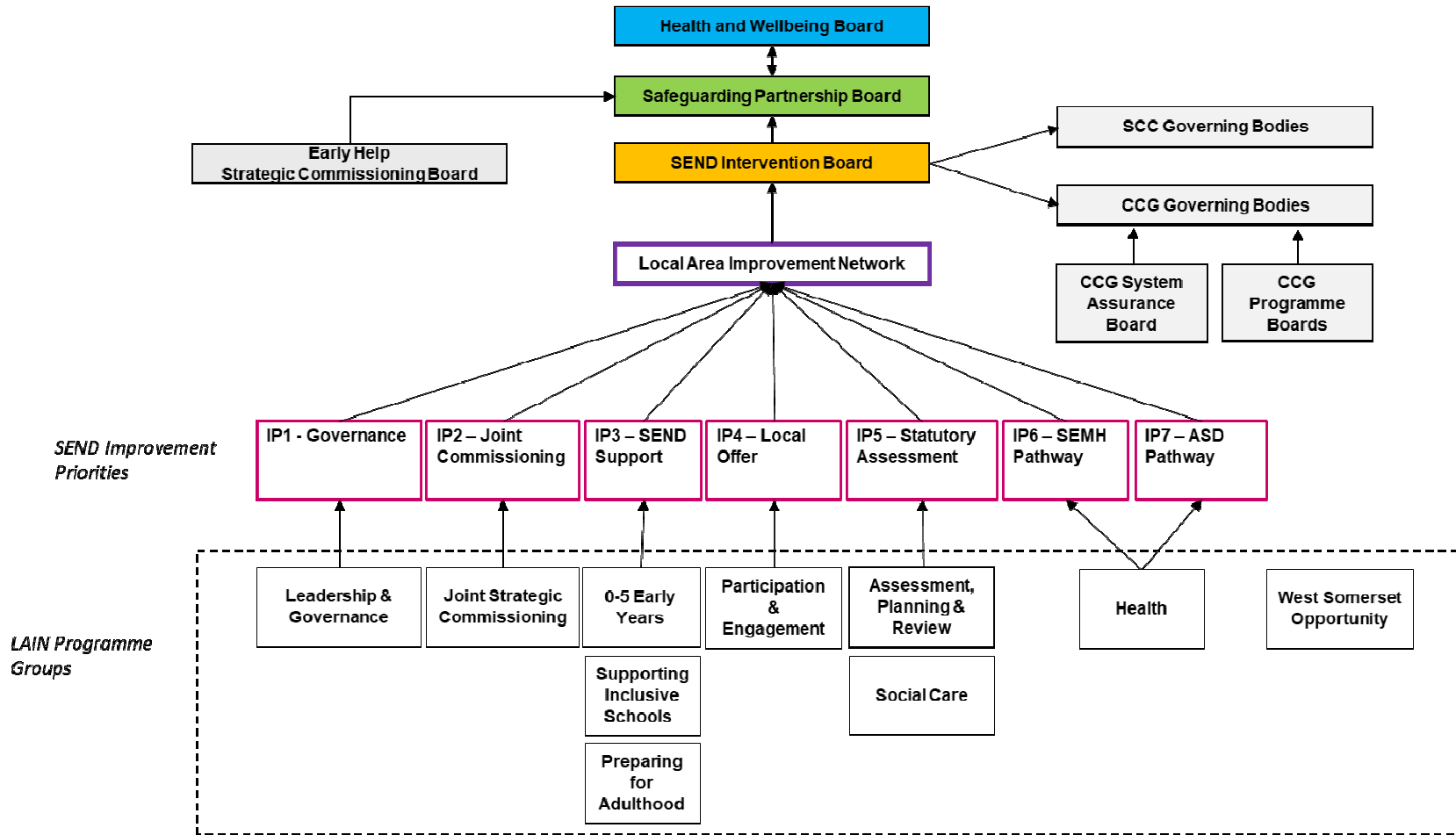
Working together to support delivery of improvements



Monitoring our progress in delivering improvement



SEND Improvement - Governance



How does this affect me?

- SEND is EVERYONE's RESPONSIBILITY
- Be clear on the priority actions for the Local Area
- Use the latest SEND data in discussions, know how this compares with statistical neighbours and national trends
- Start changing the conversations with families and partners
- Manage expectations

Be CURIOUS, Be CHALLENGING, Be CONFIDENT

