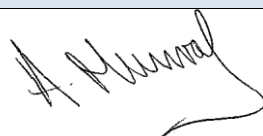


Agenda Item: 9.0

Governing Body <i>held in public</i>	Report Date of Meeting: 5 April 2018
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Report Title	Ofsted/CQC Local area Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) inspection report		
Report Author			
Anne Murray	Director of Nursing and Quality		
Purpose for presenting report	This paper informs the Board of the outcome following the recent SEND inspection in partnership with Bedford Borough Council, which includes the requirement to submit a written statement of action within 70 days.		
Action Required:	For information only		
Approval Route:	ICQC will receive full report and response 23 rd May 2018		
Further Assurance:	Governing Body will receive report and response 7 th June 2018		
Which Strategic Objectives does this report provide evidence for?			Please Tick ✓
We will commission high quality, safe and sustainable models of care that deliver effective clinical outcomes and patient experience using evidence based decisions and best practice			X
We will ensure that there is a financially sustainable and affordable healthcare system in Bedfordshire.			
We will lead, engage and operate as an effective place based and STP wide system partner to achieve greater integration of care delivery.			X
We will support local people and stakeholders to have an influence on services we commission to ensure our decisions are informed and shaped by local views and insights.			X
We will operate and manage our Governing Body to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.			
Implications/Assessments	Yes	No	N/A
Have any financial implications been signed off by the Chief Finance Officer?			x
Have any quality implications been signed off by the Director of Nursing & Quality?	x		
Have any privacy implications been signed off by the Head of Information Governance?			x
Have any conflicts of interest implications been signed off by the Corporate Office?			x
Have any public engagement implications been signed off by the Head of Communications & Engagement?			x
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?			x
Key Risks	Inability to respond appropriately to ensure improved outcomes. Ensuring that barriers are addressed.		

<p>Executive Summary</p>	<p>Joint local area SEND inspection in Bedford Borough</p> <p>Between 5 February 2018 and 9 February 2018, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Bedford Borough to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.</p> <p>This report outlines next steps for Bedford Borough and the CCG following the outcome of the need to submit a Written Statement of Action due to the weaknesses identified.</p>

Introduction

The inspection was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted, with a team of inspectors including an Ofsted Inspector and a children's services inspector from the CQC.

Inspectors spoke with children and young people who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, parents and carers, and local authority and NHS officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the special educational needs reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

Background

Following the SEND inspection which took place between 5th and 9th of February jointly with Bedford Borough a final report letter was received on the 19th March which outlined the findings including the strengths and weaknesses of the local system. The outcome of the review concluded that a Written Statement of Action was required to be submitted which will detail the response to address the weaknesses identified. This will need to be submitted on the 29th June.

Secondly Bedford Borough received a letter from the Department of Education on 28th March confirming the position and the requirement for partners to jointly meet with the Department of Education and NHS England to discuss the plans and to offer support. A date is to be confirmed.

Discussion

The concerns that are identified in the report include the following areas;

- The need to identify coordinated priorities, strategies or accountabilities between the services to ensure that joint commissioning is undertaken effectively.
- BCCG is required to identify a robust action plan to deliver the necessary actions to ensure that outcomes for young people improve.
- Leaders are required to ensure that the local offer provides clear, comprehensive accessible and up to date information about available provision and how to access it. Ensuring that this is responsive to local need.
- Leaders have not collectively ensured that EHC plans identify the range of needs for children and young people, including the sign posting to personal budgets.
- There are weakness across the borough in the provision for young people who have Special Education Needs and /or disabilities, including social emotional and mental health needs, this includes complex needs such as autistic spectrum disorder.

In order to address these issues contact has already been made with NHSE to provide expert input into addressing some of the challenges the system is facing. This programme of work has to be finalised and the executive will be fully informed of next steps.

The new Community Services contract has a detailed specification and KPIs which will support the requirements to deliver Educational Health Plans. Outcomes for this group of children have also been clearly identified and developed in partnership with Local Authority colleagues. Due to this being a priority area for the CCG have also been incentivised through the new contract arrangements.

The CCG is a member of the Bedford Borough Improvement Board, this board will review the response on the 18th May. The Integrated Commissioning and Quality Committee will receive the response on the 23rd of May and Governing will receive a further paper on the 7th June highlighting progress against the actions including the input from Department of Education and NHSE.

Recommendation

The Governing Body is asked to:

Note the outcome of the inspection and the requirement for a Written Statement of Action and the associated next steps.