

Minutes

Isle of Wight SEND Partnership Board


Date

Tuesday 10th June 2025, 10:00




Location



Virtual - Microsoft Teams




Attendees



Name	Initials	Role	Organisation
Ashley Whittaker (Chair)	AW	Strategic Director of Children's Services	Isle of Wight Council
Amie Cass (minute taker)	AC	PA to Strategic Director of Children's Services	Isle of Wight Council
Amy Milford-Wood	AM-W	Parent representative	Isle of Wight SEN Support
Anthony Harper	AH	Deputy Director, Children's Care	Integrated Care Board
Cally Wareham	CW	Cluster Lead for Children and Young People Services	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
Carly Bain	CB	Service Manager – Family Hubs and Early Help	Isle of Wight Council
Claire Collins	CC	Service Manager	Autism Inclusion Matters (AIM)
Freya Sadler	FS	Parent representative	Isle of Wight SEN Support
Gayle Moir	GM	SENDIASS Service Manager	Isle of Wight SENDIASS
Indira Ramraj	IR	Senior SEND Case Lead for Isle of Wight, Vulnerable Children's Unit	Department for Education
Jade Kennett	JK	Service Manager Strategic Development	Isle of Wight Council
Julie Lambert	JL	Post-16 Manager	Isle of Wight Council
Kate Evans	KE	Quality and Performance Officer	Isle of Wight Council
Laura Groves	LG	Assistant Director of Children's Services (Barnardos)	Barnardos & Isle of Wight Family Centres



Mark McCurrie	MMC	Independent SEND advisor	Commissioned by Department for Education (DfE)
Naomi Carter	NC	Service Director for Education, Inclusion and Access	Isle of Wight Council
Natalie Sheppard	NS	Head of School	Carisbrooke College
Cllr Paul Brading	PB	Chair of Children's Services, Education and Skills Committee and Lead Member for Children's Services	Isle of Wight Council
Ruth Hayles	RH	Service Lead – Exploitation and Youth Justice	Isle of Wight Council
Rachel Burden	RB	Senior Transformation Manager for Maternity and Child Health	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Sian Broome	SB	Head of School	St Mary's Primary School
Simon Homes	SH	Service Director QA & Practice Development, Adult Social Care	Isle of Wight Council
Steff Gleeson	SG	Head of School	St George's School and St George's Studio School



Agenda Item	 Record of discussion	 Actions
1	<u>Welcomes, introductions and apologies</u>	
2	<u>Insights from young people (10 minutes)</u> Young Person Representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately, no young people were able to be present at today's meeting. Ashley and Naomi will continue working to ensure young people are involved in future meetings. Case Study Shared by Ruth Hayles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth discussed work with a young person on a court referral order. The young person expressed appreciation, saying she helped him significantly, particularly with his ADHD. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> His parent praised the worker's flexibility and commitment, noting she supported school meetings and made her son feel valued and not just a number. <p>Practice Week Update from Ashley Whittaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley met with a young person yesterday as part of Practice Week. The young person shared positive feedback about the support received for his Autism diagnosis. 	
3	<p><u>Insights from parents, carers and voluntary sector representatives/ re-establishing a Parent Carer Forum (10 minutes)</u></p> <p>Re-establishment of Parent Carer Forum Update – Amy Milford-Wood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy reported a membership of 12 parent/carers. The final sign-off form is currently with Naomi and is expected to be official by this Friday 13th June. The group terms of reference have been distributed. Jenny McCabe has been confirmed as Chair. Ashley may need to sign the form off. <p>IOW SEND Support Survey – Freya Sadler</p> <p>Freya shared some key points from the group's recent survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to improve communication (e.g. responses to emails/calls). Opportunity to improve information about local offer e.g. St George's satellite provision. Parents and carers raised EHCP provision shifting from Section F to G/H. Annual review timeliness. Placements named in EHCPs. Transport problems. Consistency of Section F provision delivery. Delays in personal budget payments. Delivery of Section 19 duties . School consultation process and provision inclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freya to share with Amie the survey outcomes and response numbers.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeliness of EHCP process, rate of refusals to assess/amend, and appropriate use of public funds. • Data breaches and working with advocates. • Question raised about whether educational psychology assessments are face-to-face. • Some issues align with SEND Transformation Plan workstreams. <p>Additional Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gayle shared that feedback received by SENDIASS included: communication, placements and use of part-time timetables. • Claire shared that the Island's Autism Strategy meeting invites were sent. This was adult-focused, as there was no children's content. Attendance is encouraged. The last board meeting had no attendees. Need to raise profile of children in this. • Anthony emphasised the need to also highlight positive feedback. Amy acknowledged that it can be hard for parents to recognise good practice amid challenges. • Daron Perkins (Service Manager for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Adult Social Care) will attend the Autism Partnership Board meeting. • Natalie Sheppard (Head of Carisbrooke College) will share feedback with the Headteacher Forum and Hampshire, IOW, Southampton and Portsmouth (HISP) multi-academy Trust. • Mark added that feedback is valuable for key concern areas and driving the improvement journey. • Ashley will follow up on the need for an all-age Autism Strategy, as the current work only covers adults. <p>Ashley thanked Freya for collating this feedback. This topic will be explored further in this meeting within item 6 of the agenda.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Neurodivergent Pathway – Anthony Harper (15 minutes)</u></p> <p>Anthony shared the Children and Young People's Neurodivergent Pathway, a system-wide initiative:</p> <p>Key messages:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal offer includes a single point of access, early identification, and support. • Neurodivergent Multi-Disciplinary Team (NDMDT) is progressing through a phased development. <p>Current status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phases 1 and 2 of service development completed. • 570 children and young people are currently known to the NDMDT on the Island. • The profiling tool is under review, with alternatives to the Portsmouth's model being considered. • A workshop is planned to develop shared transformation principles, including a parent workshop. <p>Parent Feedback – Amy Milford-Wood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged the significant effort by the ICB and Local Authority. • IOW SEND Support is keen to collaborate meaningfully on improving the profiling tool. • Preference expressed for adapting Manchester's tool if it can be made suitable for the Island. 	
5.	<p>Local Area SEND Inspection – Naomi Carter (15 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex A data is currently being collected, following the new guidance. • A colleague, Josh is reviewing the existing Annex A and cross-referencing it with the updated requirements. • Meetings are scheduled fortnightly. • Workstream leads may be involved once the approach is agreed. • A dry run of the inspection is planned. <p>Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony suggested meeting with the new Parent Carer Forum (PCF) to explain the inspection process, as many parents and staff are unfamiliar with it. • The inspection covers the entire Local Area system and lasts three weeks, with inspectors visiting various settings and partners. 	

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6.	<p>Update on SEND Transformation Plan – Anthony Harper and Naomi Carter (20 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan is currently in draft. Naomi has revised the structure to include six workstreams, each with named leads. • Amy expressed wish for IOW SEN Support to be included in leadership of the co-production workstream, as per previous discussions. • Mark noted the risk of having too many leads for the workstreams. • Claire highlighted the Parent Carer Forum’s lack of experience compared to IOW SEND Support and supported their involvement. • Gayle expressed interest in workstreams 1, 2, and 4. <p>Ashley asked about timelines. Naomi confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workstream leads will be briefed on expectations. • All workstreams will meet before the end of September. • A standard reporting template will be used to update the board (covering strengths, concerns, and next steps). • After discussion it was agreed that two workstreams will report at each SEND Partnership Board meeting. • Final version of the plan will be published, with further consideration of Amy and Claire’s feedback. <p>Educational Psychology Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third round of recruitment for Principal Educational Psychologists was unsuccessful. • A contract with Link is in place until January for statutory assessments (remote-only). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy raised concerns about accessibility for remote assessments. • Naomi explained that this was contract went through a procurement process and how this limited the options. • Gayle asked if procurement for future provision has started. Naomi confirmed it will begin soon if recruitment remains unsuccessful. • Freya questioned the cost-effectiveness of parents going to tribunal to secure EP services. 	

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	<p>Staffing Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three new officers have joined the statutory SEND team. • Interviews for the vacant SEND Service Manager role are upcoming. • Recruitment is underway for a SEND Finance Officer. • Additional training is being provided to the team. <p>SEND Expansion Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation for creating additional provision on the Island closed yesterday 	
7.	<p><u>Draft SEND Performance Dashboard (20 mins)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft dashboard was shared; Kate attended to gather feedback. • Amy noted that suggestions from IOW SEND Support and AIM were not reflected. • Workstream 4, Measure 13 (EHCPs within 13 weeks) will be amended. Kate to work with Mark on this. • Feedback should be directed to Kate. <p>Participation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony and Kate agreed participation outcomes should be included, though data is currently collected inconsistently. • Ashley noted there is no current mechanism to collect this data, but one will be developed. <p>Data Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most data can be reported quarterly, but schools report on an academic year. This will be taken into account. <p>RISE Projects – Naomi Two projects with RISE to be shared by Amie with the minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND Service Mapping – 19th September (Isle of Wight). • SEND Communication Strategy Workshop – 30th September (Teams). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aimed at Island-wide leaders to improve communication, consistency, and strategic alignment. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will inform an action plan for SEND communication. <p>Outcomes Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony suggested incorporating this into Workstream 1. 	
8.	<p><u>Review Terms of Reference (TOR) (5 minutes)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Terms of Reference for this board has been updated to reflect new colleagues; meeting frequency remains unchanged. The new Children's Committee includes 9 elected members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley asked Cllr Brading for input on further member representation. Cllrs Love and Andre have expressed interest. Cllr Brading supports having 3 core representatives. The next review of the TOR is scheduled for April 2026. 	<p>Further updates to TOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freya Sadler to be added. Julie Lambert to be added. Placeholder to be included for the Parent Carer Forum (PCF).
9.	<p><u>Minutes and actions from last time (5 minutes)</u></p> <p>RISE Mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitations will be sent to all attendees. The work has not yet started and will involve wider partner agencies. <p>Local support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autism Inclusion Matters (AIM) teen group Sessions for ages 12–17 are restarting, including the 'I Am' sessions. Youth Trust have closed their waiting list for under 11's and Autism Inclusion Matters (AIM) have a reduced offer. <p>Occupational Therapy (OT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts are underway to improve service access. Bookable OT advice slots will be available. Further information to be shared with the minutes. 	

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10.	<p>Any other business (5 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy noted that “gaps in provision” was omitted from the previous forward plan. This will be added for discussion at the next meeting. <p>Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday 20th August, 10am. Despite falling in the school holidays, attendees agreed this date will still be suitable.</p>	

Meeting dates	Location	Agenda items
Wednesday 20 th August 10:00	County Hall, Floor 2, Conference Room 2 / Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps in provision
Thursday 16 th October 14:00	County Hall, Floor 4, Conference Room 5 / Microsoft Teams	
Wednesday 10 th December 10:00	County Hall, Floor 2, Conference Room 2 / Microsoft Teams	
Thursday 22 nd January 10:00	County Hall, Floor 1, Conference Room 3 / Microsoft Teams	