

# Minutes

## Isle of Wight SEND Partnership Board



### Date

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 14:00



### Format

Hybrid – County Hall (Conference Room 5) and Microsoft Teams







### Attendees



Name	Initials	Role	Organisation
Adeline Gibbs	AG	South East SEN advisor	NHS South East Region
Anthony Harper (Chair)	AH	Deputy Director of Children's Care	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Ashley Whittaker	AW	Strategic Director of Children's Services	Isle of Wight Council
Ben Geddes	BG	Co-chair	Parent Carer Forum
Beth Dyer	BD	Service Manager - Education	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Paul Brading	PB	Chair of Children's Committee	Isle of Wight Council
Daron Perkins	DP	Service Manager – Adult Social Care - Mental Health and Learning Disability	Isle of Wight Council
Eleanor Reed	ER	Service Manager Public Health	Isle of Wight Council
Emma Meek	EM	Strategic Director	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Freya Sadler	FS	Parent representative	Isle of Wight SEN Support
Gayle Moir	GM	Service Manager	IOW SENDIASS
Kate Evans	KE	Quality and Performance Officer	Isle of Wight Council
Kay Jones	KJ	Service Director - Children's Social Care	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)
Matthew Powell	MP	Head of SEND	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Naomi Carter	NC	Service Director – Education, Inclusion and Access	Isle of Wight Council
Rachel Burden	RB	Deputy head of SEND	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight







Steff Gleeson	SG	Service Manager - SEND	Isle of Wight Council
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	 <b>Record of discussion</b>	<b>Actions</b> 
1 – Insights from Young People	<p>AW shared news of an upcoming youth voluntary sector conference taking place on Saturday, 31st January, aimed at young people aged 11 to 25.</p> <p>The event is designed to explore what matters most to young people and amplify their voices. While the conference is not exclusively for children with SEND, many of the participants do have special educational needs.</p> <p>Discussions will be framed around the four pillars of preparing for adulthood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Inclusion</li> <li>- Health</li> <li>- Education, Employment and Training</li> <li>- Independent Living</li> </ul> <p>Themes have been identified by young people through the planning process. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessible facilities / activities in the community</li> <li>- Public Transport access and cost</li> <li>- Mental Health (impact of social media, sleep hygiene, less daunting mental health support)</li> <li>- Access to medical appointments (dentist)</li> <li>- Careers advice outside of school</li> <li>- Life skills, home management. Access to these and managing finances. Supporting to live as independent adults in the future.</li> </ul> <p>The outcome of this conference will be used to inform local decision making.</p> <p>EM shared news on the Early Help Neurodivergent Pathway. Bespoke work to capture voice of the child will be carried out by a participation lead. They will work with children and young people, to ascertain what they want to see from the pathway. They will also help design the profiling tool. The participation lead will work with existing groups, rather than creating new.</p>	

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	<p>EM said the voice of parents and carers is loud and clear but we still need to hear more from children and young people.</p> <p>KM raised that care experienced young people's voices should also be included, as well as children who are electively home educated.</p>	
2 – Insights from Parents/carers	<p>FS stated that she is open to receiving suggestions for specific topics for parent/carer surveys. FS will email further feedback to AW.</p> <p>FS shared that some parents and carers have found the phase transfer information confusing. NC confirmed it is a voluntary process and is not replacing the statutory review process.</p> <p>Some parents and carers have also raised that the 'please treat us with respect' message is still on some local authority staff's automatic replies. They feel that it is patronising and hypocritical.</p> <p>FS added that parents are having difficulties reaching the SEND team by phone. It was previously suggested there could be a signposting phoneline. KE has been looking into the phone line suggestion, however this would involve re-allocation of resource which would reduce capacity in other areas.</p> <p>KE said there are currently a number of people who answer the phones, however due to the new telephone system if a person is already in a teams meeting it looks as though they are ignoring the call. There is an email address for improvements suggestions. This is being worked on at the moment.</p> <p>GM added that the SENDIASS telephone helpline can respond to telephone enquiries around SEND. 265 calls last quarter, 20% were getting in touch to say they haven't been able to get in contact with the Local Authority.</p> <p>NC requested to FS that IWSEN Support remove a post from their website. FS confirmed she will ask the team to remove. NC added that if there is a concern it would be preferable to go to NC directly rather than online.</p>	



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	<p>BG asked for some feedback on the EHC Hub and Egress. KE and BG will meet outside this meeting.</p> <p>EM asked PCF representatives if the group is up and running yet, BG confirmed that they are at the stage where they can attend meetings and paperwork is being finalised.</p> <p>AH mentioned that we have previously touched base on sharing positive stories and praise at this meeting. KE shared that she did receive some positive feedback for the phase transfer.</p> <p>LG shared that she had a positive meeting with Catrina from the Neurodiverse Multi-Disciplinary Team. They looked at ways to work closely together through family hubs and signposting parents to support services.</p> <p>GM added that SENDIASS are running fortnightly online workshops: <a href="#">Workshops - Isle of Wight SENDIASS</a></p> <p>AW shared two examples of positive news stories;</p> <p>AW recently visited an award ceremony for adult learning on the Island. One recipient was a young man with additional needs. He was highly complementary about the vocational support he received through adult learning. AW said this made him consider whether enough young people are aware of the offer. He had a positive experience in terms of self-esteem and confidence as well as the qualifications he gained from it.</p> <p>AW also said there are courses for parents specifically around SEND. He came across one inspirational example of a family who had been supported by the programme that was delivered in schools. Their child has a diagnosis of ASC and ADHD. Again, the question is do enough people know about this support.</p> <p>The co-production workstream could focus on communication to connect feedback from parent/carers. EM shared there needs to be a terms of reference and priority plan.</p>	

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	<p>MP raised that MP Richard Quigley recently recognised some of the exemplary work on the Island in a letter to the Education Secretary.</p> <p>CW shared positive feedback received for Occupational Therapy. Medina House School had sent feedback to CW for the speech and language team, saying their knowledge and support has been invaluable, staff are kind and caring, staff are informative and are good advocates for children.</p>	
3 – Joint Draft Commissioning Strategy	<p>AW updated on this. Workstream 6 of the SEND transformation is about joint commissioning. Over the Summer, colleagues from different organisations worked together to produce the joint strategy for the Island. It was shared with the papers for this meeting. In our 6 monthly cycle of the workstream deep-dives, we will discuss joint commissioning as part of the December SEND Partnership Board meeting. AW asked the group to review the document and send comments by the end of November. There is a focus on co-production in the document and around continuous loop of assessing services and feedback from families.</p> <p>AW added that the document is awaiting feedback from Adult Social Care. Once finalised, this partnership board will agree a schedule of commissioning activities, feedback and quality. We will identify which ones in terms of parents/carers are a priority for co-production. This will then act as a test for how we co-produce a service based on feedback, early in 2026. AW added that it is important to be aware that realistically not every service can be co-produced.</p> <p>KJ felt there needs to be a reference to children we care for and care experienced young people. Care experience is now recognised as a protected characteristic. Social care reforms will also be important to include and the importance of early intervention. The joint commissioning strategy will have strong links to the corporate parenting and sufficiency strategies.</p> <p>Adeline gave feedback in the meeting chat: <i>Some feedback, looks comprehensive, suggest strengthening the strategy by aligning to the pillars in SEND strategy for better read across. Will the action plan of this strategy be the actions</i></p>	<p><b>Action</b> – Everyone to review the Joint Commissioning Strategy and send feedback by the Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.</p>



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	<p><i>within the Area SEND improvement plan? If so, I'd be explicit.</i>  <a href="https://iwc.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/download/education-strategy">https://iwc.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/download/education-strategy</a>            Governance- am assuming there will be no change as stated in appendix 2 and 3 of SEND imp plan? If so, suggest making it clearer with the existing infrastructure in this strategy  <a href="https://iwc.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/download/area-send-improvement-plan">https://iwc.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/download/area-send-improvement-plan</a></p> <p>MMc also recommended considering the voice of schools, their wants and needs within the strategy. Knowing what ordinarily available provision there is and what we need. What do schools feel they need to improve inclusivity? What can partners be doing together to improve?</p>	
4 – Preparation for Local Area SEND Inspection	<p>KE has been focusing on coordinating Annex A in preparation for the Local Area SEND Inspection. Last week colleagues did a dry run of collecting information that we would be expected to provide 24 hours after the initial call for inspection. The outcome of this was that most information was retrieved on time and the right people have the right information. It also helped with identifying areas to improve.</p> <p>RB was able to summarise clearly health provision and who provides what. There is some further work to be done on Commissioning and Quality Assurance arrangements for residential schools. List of all children with an EHCP and on SEN support at school. Children with a disability are identified through the Short Breaks register. There have been discussions on how we can use the disability register. AW was pleased with how the team came together to provide the information and in time.</p> <p>AG shared that it is important if the key lead person isn't there, there is a delegate who can step in. KE confirmed she has a pool of contacts.</p> <p>AH asked if as a partnership we are confident we have briefed all partners and staff well. KJ shared that AW presented at an all children's social care briefing to help prepare colleagues. It might be worth considering further comms to prepare all staff.</p>	




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5 – Transformation workstream 2 (Early Intervention and Prevention) BD and ER	<p>BD shared that within workstream 2, they have been looking at what is working well within services. Bringing in Early Help colleagues. There are further plans to reach out to maternity services. It can be a challenge knowing who it is we need to reach out to. Also don't want to duplicate on work.</p> <p>ER raised that there is a difference between early prevention for children with SEND needs that are acquired through neglect or trauma, or if needs are present from birth how do we improve outcomes for all children. BD added that when looking at existing support, do we have the right things, delivered at the right time and are they having the right impact. Early intervention is also key to the sustainability of our services.</p> <p>An evidence-based approach is needed. We need to do things differently; have earlier interventions so specialist services are not over-relied upon. We need to balance the growing demand we have and changing environment on the Island. Babies having screen time etc.</p> <p>KJ shared that there has been a review of Early Help processes to ensure strategies are aligned across the system, including the voluntary sector. Going through the tendering process of re-specifying the Family Hubs and local offer. Colleagues have also recently developed a comprehensive action plan for the Early Intervention and Prevention board. The workstreams have overlapping themes that can be joined up.</p> <p>AH asked whether the key children's boards and chairs of these should meet regularly. Kay said that she has mapped the boards so this could happen.</p> <p>PB shared schools do feel collaboration with the local authority. BD raised that high quality inclusive education every day needs to be the priority in schools.</p> <p>AG added that some areas in the country have used the inspection framework to complete audit deep-dives.</p>	



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6 – Workstream 5 (Preparation for Adulthood) SG and DP	<p>Julie Lambert is leading on this workstream. SG met with her to complete the feedback form. A Multi-agency audit has been completed for preparation for adulthood. 5 out of 6 areas gave positive feedback. Julie has been liaising with colleagues and creating a 'RAG' rating. Strengths from post-16 is that there are strong careers networks on the Island. Further development is required around future curriculum to meet needs and progression for all learners. Social care was an area of development for independent advocates. There is strength in multi-agency working.</p> <p>SG raised that there has been some challenge around receiving feedback from health colleagues. They attended the initial meeting. EM said she is not aware of other invites. CW confirmed she attended the initial meeting.</p> <p>DP raised that there is a need for earlier intervention for young people in regards to independent living. Often it becomes a reactive situation, with extensive support required over longer periods of time.</p> <p>EM raised that the audit tool was very useful to identify gaps.</p> <p>MMc said he had shared some good practice from Wokingham Council with Julie. Wokingham had co-produced a pathways for adulthood guidance document, which starts early and sets out services for adulthood. MMc raised it is worth liaising with schools to find out what they feel they need for an effective pathway.</p> <p>AW shared that in a recent leadership team meeting, colleagues talked on the need to brief children's services teams on the inspection process. AW asked colleagues where in the community we are doing amazing stuff for children and young people that not everyone may know about. People across the council shared support in different areas of the community. This includes Cineworld holding autism friendly screenings and work in museums, libraries and leisure centres to make their services more inclusive. These were all good examples of community inclusion.</p>	<p><b>Action</b> - CW will catch up with Julie Lambert in the next couple of weeks.</p>



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	<p>RB shared that Community Inclusion Neurodiversity training is available to leisure and culture providers until March 2026. You can find more out from:  <a href="mailto:communityinclusion@avenuesgroup.org.uk">communityinclusion@avenuesgroup.org.uk</a></p> <p>AG added that Brighton and Hove have an interactive map with young people that she will share with the board when live.</p> <p>NC has been in discussion with the Isle of Wight College and HTP around pathways.</p>	
7 – SEND Performance Dashboard	<p>KE has been working to collect information for Annex A. Through this process it has given her access to populate the dashboard. Some information is not as up to date as needs to be. Important to feed back to workstreams what their data is. Element of cross-over. It has been worthwhile last few weeks. KE is going to find out who best people to speak to around data. KE asked how will be best to share this data with the board.</p> <p>NC shared that KE has done a brilliant job on this. KE said she has been getting a more of a holistic view of everything throughout the process and she can see where progress has been made. Helpful for KE to feed out some of the information to the board.</p> <p>The dashboard is broken down by workstreams; summarises different areas (timeliness of EHCP's, wait times etc). KE is now in a position to bring a firmer plan to next board.</p> <p>KPI's will be agreed for each workstream. 6-8 KPI's should be enough to track over time the impact on other areas. E.g, better quality provision will equal less needs assessments. Over the next 3-5 years we should see this change take effect.</p> <p>AW said there is a historical issue over data. This dashboard will supersede any others we use.</p>	<p><b>Action</b> – KE to present the performance dashboard at the next SEND Partnership Board meeting (December).</p>
8. Review of actions from the last meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JD to meet AM-W and FS Update: The board is unsure if this has happened yet.</li> <li>2. Neurodiversity Pathways</li> </ol>	

Agenda Item	 <b>Record of discussion</b>	<b>Actions</b> 
	<p>Update: This agenda item will be carried forward to the next meeting for discussion.</p> <p>3. NC to send KJ a PowerPoint about inspection to be shared wider Update: Action complete.</p> <p>4. Share the Local Safeguarding Partnership report on participation with the minutes Update: Action complete. This was sent out with the documents for today's meeting.</p> <p>5. KJ and NS to meet outside of this meeting for social care timeliness Update: NS has been off work unwell so this has not happened yet.</p> <p>6. Nichola to share draft phase transfer letter with CC for feedback Update: Feedback was received</p> <p>7. 'Gaps in provision' to be included on next agenda– Update: Include in inspection preparation.</p> <p>8. CC to send NC the flyers for the groups (AIM) Update: NC has not received these yet.</p>	
Any other business	None.	
Next meeting 	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December at 10:00am – County Hall, Conference Room 2 / Hybrid via Microsoft Teams.	

### Action Tracker

Date	Action	Responsible person
16.10.25	Everyone to review the Joint Commissioning Strategy and send feedback by the Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November.	All
16.10.25	CW will catch up with Julie Lambert in the next couple of weeks.	Cally Wareham (CW)

16.10.25	KE to present the performance dashboard at the next SEND Partnership Board meeting (December).	Kate Evans (KE)
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#### Forward Plan

Date item to be discussed	Item	Responsible person
10.12.25	Neurodiversity Pathways Discussion	ICB/Council
10.12.25	Gaps in provision to be discussed within preparation for inspection standing item.	
10.12.25	KE to present the performance dashboard	Kate Evans (KE)