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| **Yorkshire and Humber Change Programme Partnership (CCP) Highlight Report** | |
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| **Date of Report:** | 23rd January 2024 |
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| **Reporting period:** | 4/12/2023 – 23/01/2024 |
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| **CPP Context & Background** |
| The DfE are committed to testing, refining and developing the most significant reforms to ensure they get the changes right via a Change Programme. Testing will take place in up to nine Change Programme Partnerships (CPP) each made up of three to four local authorities and their partners. The DfE shortlisted up to three local authorities per region and invited them to express an interest in leading the CPP in each region. Wakefield is the lead LA in the Yorkshire and Humber CPP working with Bradford, Calderdale and Leeds.  The national delivery partner, The Reaching Excellence and Ambition for all Children (REACh) consortium, led by PA Consulting in partnership with the Council for Disabled Children, Olive Academies and IMPOWER are supporting the DfE and our CPP with delivery of a two-year programme to implement, test and refine reforms introduced by the Improvement Plan.  Some of the key areas the CPP will be working on are: Development of a CCP Steering Group, completing a Strategic Delivery Plan, testing National and Local Inclusion Dashboards, setting up/amending SEND & AP Partnerships, developing Local Area Inclusion Plans (LAIP), using a benchmarking tool for strategic planning for SEND and AP, testing of the National EHCP template, multi-agency panels, AP Reform (3-Tier Model), National Standards, Bands and Tariffs, Advisory Tailored Lists and Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC).  The Department for Education have appointed ICF Consulting Services, an independent public policy and research consultancy, to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the SEND & AP Change Programme. |
| **Progress Updates Since the Last Highlight Report** |
| * Membership of the steering group has continued to grow to ensure that there is now representation from across the SEND AP arena and in line with the DfE guidance. * DfE have developed a new test version of a data dashboard following feedback from the CPP on first iteration and where it was felt that gaps in data intelligence remained. Colleagues will be exploring the new format. * Task and finish groups and workshops will be formed to undertake certain core aspects of the programme bringing in the required expertise depending on the particular focus. * There have been weekly programme meetings with Wakefield (the Lead Local Authority), the DfE and REACh. * The four Local Authorities have used the gap analysis of their Local SEND and AP Partnership Boards to update their Terms of Reference (ToR) in line with the requirements of the Change Programme. Each Local Area has engaged with local partners to identify the correct colleagues to fill any gaps. The updated ToR has been/ or is due to go to SEND and AP Boards in each area in order to approve the amends and sign off the updated Terms of Reference for each area. The final strengthened ToR will be shared with the DfE. * Local Areas have been continuing to develop their Local Area Inclusion Plans (LAIPs) collating and analysing the data and information from a wide range of partners. This was facilitated by a half-day session with each LA to work through the core aspects as a multi-agency partnership. Initial feedback on the template has been shared as part of the continuous feedback loop, further work is planned to collate further feedback. Areas have confirmed producing this document is very time consuming and all have further work to do. * All 4 Local Areas have commenced the testing of the standardised EHCP template. The approach differs across our CPP with some testing across their whole area, one has also undertaken some initial testing of annual reviews, another area is testing in certain cluster areas. Generally the template has been positively received. Communications and workforce training is key. * REACh has completed reviews of Local Authority’s EHCP Multi-agency Panel (MAPs) existing arrangements and conducting a gap analysis. Where there are existing Terms of Reference Local Authorities have submitted these for analysis and next steps. REACh providing an overview of any steps needed to be compliant. * Progress report templates agreed and completed by each area, these feed into the steering group and each area RAG rates their progress against the current Change Programme ask. * Wakefield is conducting a ‘deep dive’ into current mediation processes and practice against the criteria in the Change Programme. Once undertaken and recommendations made this will be shared across the CPP. Other areas have commenced work in this area. * Wakefield have updated their published webpage on their Local Offer providing updates about the Change Programme, as have other areas, and in the process of including a Change Programme section on their Local Offers. Highlight reports from the Y and H Steering Group have been shared widely. * Wakefield Parent and Carer Forum website now includes CPP related information, the detail of this has been shared across the CPP. * DfE have set up several information sessions and are providing guidance in the new year on the key strands of activity. Both Tailored Lists and more detail on Alternative Provision reform have been a focus through January 2024. * Y and H CPP updates included on regional SEND newsletter for December. |
| **Details of Meetings/Workshops/Task and Finish Groups in this Period** |
| * **Local Area Inclusion Plan (LAIP) Development workshops**   Three LAIP Local Area workshops took place in this period supported by a DfE advisor and REACh with multi-agency partners in each CPP area.   * **Update to Yorkshire and Humber SEND Leads**   15 December update provided to the Yorkshire and Humber SEND leads group and the highlight report shared.   * **SEND AP Change Programme Partnership Information Session**   13 December 2023 – with Wakefield’s DCS, senior leaders, DfE and REACh.   * **Meeting Another Region CPP Lead**   Took place on the 19 of December to share learning and challenges.   * **Introductory Meeting**   Held on 5th of January with a newly appointed senior manager in one of our CPP areas to provide an overview.   * **SEND AP Change Programme Partnership Information Session**   This was held virtually on 17th of January hosted by Wakefield, DfE and REACh. It was aimed at newer member of the steering group to provide them with more background information, bring them up to date with progress and to support a question-and-answer session.   * **Steering Group**   Steering Group convened virtually on 23.01.24 and had wider stakeholder representation with expanded membership agreed. The agenda consisted of:   * Welcome and Introductions * Minutes from previous meeting * **Progress update as a CPP and against the reform areas** * **What’s coming up next?** * Governance * Standing Items * CPP Communications Plan   Previous Steering Group dates   * + Steering Group 1 – 8.9.23   + Steering Group 2 - 6.10.23   + Steering Group 3 - 3.11.23   + Steering Group 4 – 4.12.23 * **Weekly meeting with Wakefield lead contacts, DfE & REACh taking place every Friday, this period:** * 15 December 2023 * 5 January 2024 * 12 January 2024 * 19 January 2024 * **Wakefield Lead Local Authority Change Programme: Alignment Meeting/Session**   + 13.12.23 * **CPP information sessions delivered by DfE Policy Teams**   + Tailored Advisory Lists 12.01.23 & 15.01.24   + Alternative Provision 17.01.24 & 19.01.24   + Early Years/Post 16 Transitions 22.01.24   + Feedback Loop and Evaluator 11.01.24 |
| **Programme Planned Activities for Next Month** |
| * Continue work to collaboratively develop/co-produce Local Area Inclusion Plans (LAIP) at a Local Area level, in accordance with DfE guidance and templates and provide feedback on the template and experience, QA activity being undertaken to inform this process and help facilitate completion by end January 2024 deadline for the initial draft. * Updated ToR for SEND partnerships to be submitted by each area. * Progress on amending EHCP panels in line with the ask to be made across our CPP. * Feedback regarding the LAIP template collated and shared. * Implementation of the EHCP template across CPP to enable testing through to March 2024. Progress tracking taking place in each of the areas, initial feedback collected. * Continued ongoing local CPP comms ensuring these are linked across the CPP to ensure consistent messaging and informed by information from our CPP and the DfE and REACh. * Steering groups set up to run monthly throughout 2024. * All LAs in the CPP to publish information on their Local Offers re the Change Programme, Wakefield have shared their link to inform other LAs. * Wakefield to share learning and process re the ‘deep dive’ for mediation. * National evaluator will set up introductory meetings during February * CPP information sessions will run through rest of January and February covering strengthened mediation and Bands & Tariffs * Progress around Advisory Tailored list templates to be made. * Updated progress reports to be submitted by each area. * Information sharing about progress on the ELSEC project by Bradford. * Development of a Welcome pack for any new steering group members. * Y and H CPP session on AP bringing in learning from the AP taskforce in our area – Bradford and Leeds. |
| **Key Learning** |
| * Communication is key, there have been some challenges and risks with elements of the national communication. * There needs to additional capacity to be able to fully engage with the Change Programme and make the required progress. * Generally, the new EHCP template has been positively received by Local Areas. * Early evidence suggests using the new template for annual reviews can cause concern for parents and is very time consuming for Local Authorities. * On-going use and development of the LAIP would require dedicated resource. * Missed opportunities to fully include the whole system equally, in relation to the LAIP, new elements seem very education heavy. |
| **Risks, Barriers and Challenges** |
| There is an on-going challenge to balance priorities and commitment across the CPP, mitigations are in place to ensure capacity and support through specific task and finish groups and having delegated ownership to drive progress. Challenge to ensure the work is effectively co-produced given some of the timescales.  Concerns regarding some aspects of expected delivery which are not funded.  Areas which are currently identified as the most challenging are the requirements around AP and Tailored Lists. |

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