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| **Local Area Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) & Alternative Provision (AP) Strategic Partnership Board Highlight Report** |
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| **SEND Improvement Update** |
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| **Date of Report:** | 15 December 2023 |
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| **Reporting period:** | October to December 2023 |
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| **SEND Lead:** | Service Director, Education & Inclusion  |
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| **Lead Organisations:** | Wakefield CouncilWakefield District Health and Care PartnershipWakefield Parent Carer Forum |

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| 1. **Programme Status Summary**
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| **General Update – Julie Killey*** **SEND Community Inclusion statement** update, a further workshop was held on the 19th of October and the draft was considered by Children and Young People management team on 6th December, a few additional amends have been requested once these are received it will progress to creative services to design. The final documents will be published on the Local Offer.
* Multi-agency planning continues for our Local Offer Live Event taking place in May 2024
* Our **SEND Directory for settings** is now complete and will be circulated to all settings once final amends are agreed with creative services.
* The 2023/24 **small SEND capital grant scheme** applications were considered by a multi-agency panel and 14 settings were successful.

1. Ryhill Junior, Infant and Nursery – £20,6292. King’s Meadow Academy – £16,8003. Pinders Primary School – £19,6744. St Giles C of E Academy – £43,150 5. St Michael’s C of E Academy – £24,9946. Crofton Infant School – £31,3817. Smawthorne Henry Moore School – £25,4258. Holy Family & St Michael’s Catholic Primary School – £28,1369. Cherry Tree Academy – £48,69110. Darrington Church of England Primary School – £17,45611. The Castle Nursery School – £28,67012. Featherstone St Thomas CE Junior School – £29,00213. Alverthorpe St Paul’s CE (VA) School – £24,17014. Altofts Junior School – £11,867.20* We have received notification our year three **DfE short breaks innovation bid** was successful, we have been awarded £454,001. for 2024 to 25 which will enable us to maintain and increase our enhanced short breaks offer.
* Further **QA work** has taken place and our audit documents updated.
* A **LGA SEND peer challenge** took place in Wakefield from 14 to 17 of November, many thanks to all those involved in the preparation, meetings and visits. Feedback presentation to be shared with the SEND and AP Board at the December meeting.
* Inclusion Strategy and Performance have now moved to **Liquid Logic system** which will enhance the user experience and enable robust performance management, it is also the same system as children’s social care and early help.
* Successful **FSM project** reviewed – identified an additional 1200 plus children across Wakefield enabling them to get a daily school meal and for schools to access pupil premium to provide additional support.

**Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) – Sammi Zafir*** **Service Day 18th October -** The team facilitated a PfA Workshop for staff across the service and a chance to develop new links with wider colleagues.
* **PfA Coffee Morning, Wakefield Trinity ground -** an opportunity for parents, carers and young people to come along chat, share personal experiences and concerns in a relaxed and informal setting offering a safe and inclusive space for meaningful conversations, expand their social networks and foster a sense of belonging. February’s coffee morning will be held at Sharlston Community Centre.
* **SEND Drop in Clinic’s -** Scheduled for every second Tuesday of the month. Venues rotate between the three Youth Hubs across the district so that parents, carers and young people are able to attend if they have any arising concerns or require support around SEND and PfA in general. Following feedback, the time of the clinic has been changed from 9am- 3.30pm to 1pm – 6pm so that we are able to better meet needs of working parents.
* **PfA Coordinator direct work -** Supporting/challenging organisations on ensuring provision is appropriate and needs met for Wakefield children and young people. SMART outcomes implemented via attendance at Annual Reviews, advising setting on the importance of providing taster sessions/ work experience/placements due to employability aspirations; pathways shared including Supported Internships. Liaising with Council teams to extend the offer for Supported Interns, i.e., substantive work experience and work placements.
* **5 Day Officers -** The 5 Day Officers are managing their caseload of young people supporting them to access work placement and opportunities in their local areas. They have attended Post 16 Open days, hosted PfA events, attend Wakefield Supported Internship Steering Groups and represented the PfA Team at College parent evenings. Attend monthly sessions at allocated provision High Well/ Highfield/ Castleford Campus/ Pinderfields Hospital Pru.
* **SEND Employment Forum**

Work is ongoing to engage more employers as well as development of integrated area working within the council and with partner organisations, to promote and champion Supported Internships and SEND employment. We have merged our online platform, Basecamp with Wakefield Youth Partnership Hubs. This is so that as a LA we can share information collectively with Wakefield Families Together partners and other associated organisations.Go Higher West Yorkshire facilitates Wakefield’s practitioner Basecamp group and supports the work of:Wakefield SEND Employment ForumWakefield Youth Partnership ForumThe Basecamp group is a space where members can share ideas, events, communicate and promote key dates, and seek information and support. **Complex Care Needs Team – Chris Campbell*** DSCO role agreed in principle – further discussions taking place around where this appropriately sits.
* Impact has started to be clearly recorded within work documents to enable understanding of the impact of social care interventions and short breaks interventions for families.
* Current case load 140 in the team
* Slight increase in children on child protection
* Slight increase in children looked after (mainly due to s.20 early adult transitions)
* Fully staffed permanent workforce
* Agreement for recruitment of temporary additional 2 day SEND Social Care Practitioner Role
* SEND SC Practitioner has met with SEND leads within Targeted Early Help and social care.
* SEND Family Support Workers in post and completing whole family assessments with some very early but positive outcomes
* SEND engagement officer in post and in the early stages of interventions with families.

**0 to 19 Service – Margaret Appleyard**The three Sensory Stay and Play groups continue to be co-ordinated and delivered within the Childrens Centres by the SEND Scoping Health Visitor. The Portage service continue to support within the groups. Differing relevant services, including voluntary groups, have attended the groups to offer support to families and their children. Positive feedback continues to be received from the families attending. Refer to the case study, which evidences the value of the Sensory Stay and Play groups, highlighting an excellent example of partnership working between health and education to support a child attending the group. One of the professionals involved reported ‘a recent session had a significant impact when a child in attendance required our support. Thanks joint working, she now has her EHCP and secured a place in EYAC. The diverse range of professionals attending continues to offer a wide range of support to families.**WESAIL – Emma Anderton*** The work to improve service user’s experience with WESAIL continued and we now have fully embedded our 123 approach which operates predominantly providing a virtual offer.
* Our working together document that is provided to all newly registered service users is now available online -To understand more about our service, what we can offer and how we can help, [read our Working Together document.](https://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/media/0kpfvxar/wesail-working-together-document-2023.docx)
* The hard work of the team at WESAIL and the change in processes has resulted in currently no waiting list.
* WESAIL and Local Offer Facebook page - the number of followers has increased from 467 to 629. <http://www.facebook.com/WakefieldWESAILandLocalOffer>
* We participated in the Peer reviews for both the SENDIASS and Local Offer elements.
* SENDIASS Steering board meeting is taking place in December, and we have successfully recruited a new Chair who is a parent/carer with professional experience in a related field.
* Local offer strategic group provided feedback on videos demonstrating the many accessibility features on the Local offer website.

**Alternative Provision – Jim Garbutt**Inclusion Panels support all schools in Wakefield by providing them with access to services to help reduce their permanent exclusion rates and therefore ‘permanent’ use of AP places. PEx rates have reduced significantly from their pre-lockdown levels. However, levels of permanent exclusions by secondary colleagues, particularly those who are new to post, are on an upward trajectory, and will put pressure on the high needs block. Risk of being unable to meet Day 6 responsibilities plus financial risk. Between September 2023 and November 2023 there were 24 permanent Exclusions. This already exceeds the number excluded for the whole of the Autumn term 2022 – which was 21.* Review AP provision across the district and work with our PRUs to ensure capacity.
* Increase places in hotspots by supporting unregistered providers to register, and schools to create AP units which can be commissioned by the LA.
* Review of the Inclusion panel system, including moving towards schools contributing funding to the system to mitigate the financial risk.

PRUs are undertaking a review of EHCP students who are in their care due to having been PEx’d and ensuring they are in the most appropriate placement. PEx’d pupils with EHCPs where mainstream with reasonable adjustments is suitable will be moved to a new mainstream setting via the EHCP process rather than needing to await FAP.* Meet with Private Alternative Provision providers to discuss their offer and the possibility of registering under the voluntary childcare act.
* Share provisions with schools.
* Consider developing a register of private AP’s and developing QA procedures to run alongside schools due diligence processes.
* Increase the number of reintegrations using the FAP process and reviewing all young people in PRU through PEX to determine their readiness to reintegrate.
* AP team action plan targets for achieving increased reintegrations shared with stakeholders.
* Traded services approach developed for allocations through Inclusion Panel.

**Adults, Learning Disability and Mental Health – Christine Herbert*** Frequent Transitions meetings continue with Health, SEND and Children’s to problem solve specific transition cases and ensure a smooth process.
* Recruitment has had a positive effect on the Transition team, a temporary Assistant Manager in post until February 2024, two new Care Coordinators and a new social worker have started on the team as well as a senior social worker returning from mat leave.
* An information session was held with the IRO team to encourage earlier referrals to the team to allow us to plan for more complex cases.
* There are ongoing plans to set up some information sessions to be held with various children’s teams to share information on Who the Transitions team are, what work we do and how to make timely referrals to us.

**College Perspective – Heart of Yorkshire, Laura Lavender*** In Term 1 of 23/24, around 10% of all students are High Needs and 27% have a declared SEND (across all provision types). Around 1/3 of High Needs students study in specialist provision designed for young adults with SEND (including Supported Internships) whilst 70% study on Vocational courses alongside their neuro-typical peers.
* In October 23, the Group was inspected by Ofsted following the FE and Skills EIF. The College was judged across all aspects and provision types and graded ‘Strong’ for skills contribution to the local area (this is the highest grade). The judgement for High Needs was based on provision across all 3 Colleges in the Group and the inspector referenced the extremely high standard of provision at Wakefield and Castleford Colleges, particularly in regard to curriculum design for pathways to positive destination.
* DFN Project Search Supported Internships sites at Pinderfields Hospital and ICS / Wakefield Council are progressing well and the launch of the West Yorkshire Police programme is due for September 2024. The Group also offers work-based routes into employment for young adults with SEND but no EHCP – this programme currently has 8 students enrolled with most accessing or due to access a substantive work placement related to their aspirations by the beginning of Term 2.

**Schools Perspective – Outwood Grange Academies, Holly Benson****Primary:*** Band 6 SALT started 20th November full time to work in the 7 Outwood Primaries in Wakefield and upskill identified SALT champions in each academy. Contract set up with West Yorkshire ICB.
* LGA Peer Review Support for Wakefield LA services.
* SEND RAG moderation reviews completed of all academies to identify strengths and areas for development with actions to be implemented with timescale to revisit.
* Training delivered to ECT’s on: collaborative working with parents / carers, understanding reasonable adjustments and provisions through case studies, adaptations across the curriculum.
* Training for Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals on Effective whole academy identification and meeting the needs of SEND.
* Year group conferences delivery revisiting relational model including sharing of best practice.
* Makaton level 2 training for leads in 5 of our Wakefield academies.
* SENCO network session focused on Demand Avoidance.
* SENCO network session focused on Bags of Character intervention.
* Part of ELSA research project - Exploring the relationship between the Emotional Literacy Support
* Assistant (ELSA) intervention and whole-school approaches to mental health – a case study.

**Secondary:*** AET (Making sense of autism) delivered to all SENDCOs at the SENDCO network.
* Bespoke traded service offered to new to role colleagues from WISENDSS. (OACF & OAH)
* Trust response to the definitions of SEN, Disability, Reasonable Adjustments supported by WISENDSS input.
* Representation on the CPP group.
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| 1. **SEND National SENDAP improvement plan**
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| **General Update**Wakefield Local Offer now has a section covering the Change Programme. This includes the Change Programme Partnership highlight reports, a vision statement from the DfE and details about the national delivery partner REACh. Please follow the link.[About | Change Programme Partnership | Wakefield SEND Local Offer (mylocaloffer.org)](https://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/change-programme-partnership/change-programme-partnership/)Areas of work the Yorkshire and Humber Change Programme Partnership (Wakefield, Bradford, Leeds and Calderdale) have been progressing to date include:* Setting up the Y and H CCP Steering group and produce a strategic plan.
* Testing out the DfE national data dashboard and feedback on this.
* Co-producing a Local Area Inclusion Plan testing out the template provided.
* Analysis of our SEND and AP Boards against the guidance in the Change Programme and considering the recommended amends.
* Analysis of our EHCP panels against the Change Programme guidance and considering changes needed.
* Wakefield reviewing and undertaking a deep dive into our mediation arrangements against the ask in the Change Programme.
* Preparing to test out our the new national EHCP template, new plans from now will use this.

Highlight reports with further details have been shared with our SEND and AP Board**Adults, Learning Disability and Mental Health –** the resources in the Transitions team have been expanded to support well planned and smooth transitions for those who require adult social care. The development of a Transitions strategy will assist in ensuring pathways are clear and information is available and shared.**Excellent provision from early years to adulthood** – there are regular meetings set up to look at the young people approaching adulthood, look at these referrals, any signposting with advice and information or referrals to the relevant teams for an assessment under the Care Act to take place.**Delivering change for children and young families** – in the transition team we ensure early discussions through assessment, EHCP review and other meetings to ensure children, young people and families are aware of what is available and what the next steps for that young person are. |
| 1. **Data for this reporting period**
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| **SENART****January to November 2023*** Number with decision to assess – 525
* 75.2% of EHCPs issued with 20-week timescale
* 78 mediations
* 86 Appeals to SENDIST Tribunal

**Educational Psychology Service (September to November 2023)*** 183 Psychological advices completed
* 55% ofPsychological advices to contribute to statutory assessments for EHCPs were submitted on time.

**Supported Internships**The Council have been offering placements for interns for the first academic term for Project SEARCH. Hosts - Wakefield Police Programme have been delayed and will now run in Sept 2024, however they have indicated they will be offering rotational work placements from January 2024. **2022-2023 Success of Wakefield Supported Internships:** In total 21 young people accessed a Supported Internship Programme in 2022-2023. Of these: 57.1 % (12) gained paid employment 23.8% (5) gained meaningful volunteering 9.5% (2) being supported to gain employment 4.8% (1) deferred due to major surgery 4.8% (1) withdrew**Supported Internships 2023-2024** **25** young people currently accessing a Supported Internship in the Wakefield district:DFN Project SEARCH -* 10 Interns at Pinderfields Hospital
* 1 Intern at ICB Wakefield
* 4 Interns within the Local Authority
* 10 Interns at Prospects, The Shaw Trust Internship

**Social Care Practitioner data – input into EHCPs****Total: 95** * Completed by Laura: 65
* Reallocated to others within the team: 3
* Open: 27
* Other LA: 0
* Assessments: 0

**SEND Short Breaks****AET Information Oct 2022 to Dec 2023*** 184 sessions delivered to stakeholders
* 15 upcoming training events
* 4374 delegates trained to date 97% satisfaction rate overall

**Local Offer statistics 01/10/2023 to 7/12/2023*** Number of LO pages viewed: 9,438
* Number of LO sessions: 10,481
* Number of new users: 7,258
* Facebook reach: 3,827

**0 to 19 Service**

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| **Month** | **Kendal Drive Children’s Centre** | **Oakhill Children’s Centre** | **Stanley Children’s Centre**  |
| **August** | 9 | Cancelled due to Childrens Centre | 2 |
| **September** | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| **October** | 8 | 11 | 4 |
| **November** | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| **Total** | 28 | 26 | 20 |

**Adults – Learning Disabilities & Mental Health*** Number awaiting allocation – 9
* Number of young people turned 18yrs in this quarter - 10
* Number of young people turning 18yrs in next quarter – 6

**Wakefield Parent Carer Forum** |
| 1. **Current risks – Summary of key risks**
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| **General*** Demand for specialist places and capacity in our maintained specialist settings and resource provisions remains challenging.
* The number of requests for EHCPs continues to be high.
* Schools’ attendance for pupils in special schools in Wakefield is below the national averages.
* Further work to reduce exclusions for children and young people with SEND in secondary settings.
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| 1. **Actions to Mitigate risks (highlighted above)**
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| General * SEND placement projections submitted working on a number of plans to increase specialist placements in line with need. We are also continuing with a range of work to support settings to support CYP with SEND effectively in mainstream settings. A focus on secondary is required.
* Work is taking place to produce a document giving clarity about what should be provided in settings to meet the graduated response set out in the SEND Code of Practice (2015) and the new SEND Improvement Plan launched by the DfE in March 2023.
* Attendance strategy was launched in September 2023 and courses to support parents and carers are being piloted.
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| **6. You Said We Did**  |
| **You Said** |
| * We would like you to keep sharing the WESAIL contact link.
* We would like to keep knowing about services and events in the newsletter.
* We would like workshops on autism and neurodiversity and mental health at the Local Offer Live event.
* We would like WISENDSS to be more obvious on the LO website.
* Information was needed about the change programme.
* More information shared on Supported Internships
* Opportunity to share concerns and source support
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| **We Did** |
| * We posted about this on the WESAIL and LO Facebook page and will schedule regular reminders.
* We are working with our partners to ensure each newsletter has information on local SEND services, activities, events and groups.
* We are working with our partners to bring this information to the Local Offer Live event in May 2024. We will also share information about these topics on the WESAIL and Local Offer Facebook page and the Local Offer newsletter.
* We will work with our partners to make this clearer. We will share this on the WESAIL and LO Facebook page.
* Highlight reports developed for the change programme which will be shared and a page added to the local offer.
* Careers event hosted
* Coffee Morning – informal session with partners across the LA supporting families
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| **7. Programme Activities Planned (January to March 2024)** |
| **General*** Drop-in sessions available in January to provide information on the updated ‘my support plan’ and sessions available to review what is ‘ordinary available’ in settings
* Planning for the SEND conference in May
* Complete and finalise Wakefield Local Area Inclusion Plan
* Make further progress against the areas identified in our SEF
* Look at the recommendations from the LGA peer challenge and develop appropriate actions
* Plan for delivery for year three short breaks innovation bid
* Continue to meet the key milestones in the Change Programme Partnership

**PfA*** SEND Employment Forum meetings to take place – to prepare and plan next steps
* Year 2 Internship Bid to be completed
* Current Interns and their experiences; Success of Supported Interns - A conclusive update following further support for those seeking employment following the end of the programme
* Planning of YPO Taster sessions/work placements
* PfA Team - Planning for a community walk at Pontefract Racecourse promoting healthy living and community cohesion
* SEND Drop in Clinics – rotations shared and new time reviewed (1-6pm)

**0 to 19 Service – SEND Scoping Health Visitor**The SEND Scoping Health Visitor will continue to: * attend the internal HDFT workstream meetings and support in the development of pathways and processes.
* make recommendations to facilitate the delivery of an integrated quality service which addresses and is responsive to individual needs.
* support practitioners with clinical advice and support.
* co-ordinate and deliver the three Sensory Stay and Play groups, working in partnership with relevant services and agencies to the support the children and their families who attend the groups.
* be a Local Offer Champion and be a member of the SENDIASS Steering Group.
* The SEND Scoping Health Visitor has completed a training needs analysis for staff within the 0-19 Service and there are plans to deliver training to the practitioners within the service.
* The SEND Scoping Health Visitor is a member of the Institute for Health Visiting SEND Significant Interest group, which is an opportunity to network with practitioners within England and Wales to share good practice with regards to SEND.
* The SEND Scoping Health Visitor is a digital champion for the service and has responsibility to ensure that information in relation to SEND is updated on the Growing Healthy Wakefield app and on the service social media platforms.

**Adults – Learning Disability and Mental Health*** An overarching Transitions Strategy is in progress, this includes all the current pathways into the Transitions team and exit pathways.
* There are ongoing plans to set up some information sessions to be held with various children’s teams to share information on who the Transitions team are, what work we do and how to make timely referrals to us.
* Transition team members have attended various events to promote the work of the team and make connections. These will continue through the academic year at school and college open days moving into the new academic year.

**WESAIL – Emma Anderton*** We will be beginning the project to make accessible videos of our working together document.
* SENDIASS Steering board members will be following up requests from potential new members in the New Year once our Chair is fully inducted.
* SENDIASS Officer peer supervision continues with links to other district services aiding collaborative approaches.

**Schools Perspective – Outwood Grange Academies*** Provision development days for SENDCOs to map out measurable provisions to deliver to pupils as part of the graduated response.
* ELKLAN Level 3 accreditation offer 11-16yrs delivered at Doncaster OIE (available to external stakeholders).
* SEND Conference (March 19th) at Doncaster OIE (available to non-Outwood professionals to attend).
* Four more members of staff to join the new ELSA training cohort starting in January 2024.
* Implementation of whole academy relational model (zones of regulation and emotion coaching).
* Training for the third part of relational model (restorative practice) to take place December 20th for identified restorative leads and then within each academy for all staff.
* SENCO network session to focus on effective whole academy identification and meeting the needs of SEND.
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| **8. Areas for Development** |
| **Medium Term** |
| General* Areas identified in the SEF for development in the next 12 months.
* Develop and publish a Local Area Inclusion Plan – once guidance is released from the DfE.
* Learn from other areas via Local Area SEND Inspection Reports.
* Deliver the Change Programme.
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| **Long Term** |
| General* + Continue with delivery of the Change Programme
	+ Delivery against the Local Area Inclusion Plan
	+ Continued development of specialist provision capacity
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| **9 National/Regional Work and Updates** |
| * Additional funding £25K approved for the Y and H region to focus on training and support for SENART teams.
* Meeting with the DfE national policy teams around a number of areas eg Independent Special Schools and Speech and Language Therapy.
* Regional events have taken place ‘Learning from Inspections’ and Post 16 Transport.
* SEND Employment Forum and how Wakefield’s SEND Employment Forum is supporting and shaping provision for young people with SEN.
* PfA Coordinator has shared Bespoke Internship Brief with Leeds employability and skills Manager so that they are able to create a business plan/brief for their Heads of Service and introduce new Supported Internship programs.
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