

Leeds Health & Wellbeing Board

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Report of: Deputy Director of Children's Services - Safeguarding, Specialist and Targeted

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 10 June 2015

Subject: Final report on the Health and Wellbeing Board Every Disabled Child Matters Charter Audit

Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board became signatories of the Health and Wellbeing Board EDCM Charter on 27th March 2014.

To implement the charter, it was agreed that the Children's Trust Board would take forward and monitor the implementation of the charter on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board replicating the approach taken by the Local Authority for the LA EDCM Charter.

The report provides findings of the audit undertaken to determine how the board and its partners currently fair against the 7 commitments of the charter.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- 1) Approve the audit findings provided below
- 2) Approve and sign off the Leeds baseline responses to the commitments of the H&WB EDCM Charter
- 3) Consider establishing a resource to regularly monitor the areas for development related to the commitments as discussed in the report and to update the charter

commitments with an annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This resource should also provide a mechanism for providing an up to date and accurate response to any enquiries in respect of the EDCM charter. Children's Services, on behalf of the Children's Trust Board can offer this resource if this meets with the Board's approval.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1** The report provides the findings of the audit undertaken to determine how the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board and its partners currently fair against the 7 commitments of EDCM Health and Wellbeing Board Charter.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1** EDCM and 'The Children's Trust, Tadworth' developed a Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards to support Health and Wellbeing Boards to meet their responsibilities towards disabled children, young people and their families, including children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and health conditions. Health and Wellbeing Boards who sign the charter are agreeing to meet its **seven commitments** which focus on improving **health outcomes** for disabled children, young people and their families.

- 2.2** Leeds' Health and Wellbeing Board signed the Every Disabled Child Matters Health and Wellbeing Board Charter on 27th March 2014. A copy of the signed charter can be found in Appendix 1.

- 2.3** It was agreed that the Children's Trust Board would take forward and monitor the implementation of the Charter on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board using a similar approach to that taken by the Local Authority to implement the LA EDCM Charter. A telephone conversation with EDCM on the 10th December 2013 confirmed their approval of this process.

- 2.4** The process to implement the charter involved carrying out an audit to find out how partners of the board currently provide services for children and young people with SEN and disability, and their families to determine how this provision relates to and performs against the 7 commitments of H&WB EDCM Charter. The findings of this audit are detailed below in the body of this report and recommendations have been made on how to this work could be taken forward.

3.0 Context of the Audit

- 3.1** A great deal of work is taking place to implement the changes and requirements of new legislation namely, the Children and Families and Act 2014 and Care Act 2014. Work includes the development and maintenance of the Leeds Local Offer for families of children and young people with special educational needs SEN and disabilities; delivery of the care and support reforms emanating from the Care Act 2015; implementation of the new Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's), and

the development and implementation of a Disabled Children's Register in Leeds. Due to the significant impact this legislation has for children and young people with SEN and disability and their families, the implementation of this legislation positively assists Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board and its partners to achieve the commitments of the H&WB EDCM Charter.

- 3.2** Information on the work being undertaken to implement the Children and Families Act and Care Act is included in one of the contextual information documents that have been written to support this report and the commitment responses.

4.0 The Audit

- 4.1** The Audit took place between September 2014 and February 2015.

- 4.2** Partners of Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board in the scope of the audit included: Leeds City Council services – Childrens Services, Adult Services, Public Health and Housing Services, etc.; Health partners - NHS Leeds, Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's), Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust; and other key stakeholders including Healthwatch, PALS, EPIC, PPS, Scope, VAL, etc.

- 4.3** The Audit was undertaken in the following three stages:

- 1) Information gathering and preliminary research on the areas under the remit of the charter commitments;
- 2) Interviews with key stakeholders;
- 3) Analysis of the information gathered in stages 1 and 2

4.4 Stage 1 - Information gathering and preliminary research on the areas under the remit of the charter commitments.

- 4.5** Substantial information was gathered through this stage providing essential background information on service provision across partners; information on current working practices and the services currently available for children and young people with SEN and disability, and their families. Summaries of the Children and Families Act 2014, Care Act 2015 and other legislation were read in addition to internal reports written about these acts to get an understanding of the changes and their implications for services and the action being taken to implement these changes.

4.6 Stage 2 - Interviews with key stakeholders

- 4.7** In total 14 interviews involving 22 people were conducted over the period of September 2014 to February 2015. The interviews were undertaken with a range of different partners of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board to understand the services they provide for children and young people with SEN and disability, and

their families, how they interact and work with other services and jointly plan, commission and deliver services and address issues and areas of need.

4.8 Stage 3 - Analysis of the information gathered in stages 1 and 2.

- 4.9** The third stage involved analysing the information gathered in stages 1 and 2 and piecing together this information to provide an overall picture of provision for disabled children, young people and their families. This information was used to draft a response against each of the commitments.
- 4.10** The resources within the scope of the project were limited therefore this picture is limited to the information read and conversations had during the course of the audit. However that being said, sufficient information was collected overall to provide a response to each of the 7 commitments of the charter.

5.0 Findings of the Audit

- 5.1** For the majority of the commitments there was more than sufficient evidence available to provide a positive and robust response against them.
- 5.2** The commitments which we performed particularly strongly against included the commitments 2 and 3 which focus on engaging directly with disabled children, young people and their parent carers enabling them to participate in the work of the board and its partners.
- 5.3** The 'voice of the child' is a major priority for Leeds, and there is an expectation of the involvement of children and young people including those with SEN and disabilities in any decisions made about them and the services they use. Children's Services has a Voice, Influence and Change (VIC) Team which leads on strengthening the voice and influence of *all* children, young people, parents and carers across the directorate, partnership and city. The team lead on ensuring children and young people drive the Child Friendly Leeds vision and priorities and develop information and communication in partnership with them. To ensure the needs and views of disabled and SEN children and young people are considered and heard there is a VIC SEND meeting which meets on a regular basis.
- 5.4** EPIC Leeds is the Parent Participation forum in Leeds. It is one of a number of partner organisations that helps to ensure clear information is provided to parents and carers of children and young people with SEN and disabilities. EPIC Leeds aims to empower parents/carers and families to work in partnership with services, organisations and professionals and improve choices for children and young people with additional needs, their families and carers.
- 5.5** There is strong evidence to support commitment 4 of the charter. This commitment focuses on setting clear strategic outcomes for partners to meet in relation to

disabled children, young people and their families, monitoring progress towards achieving them and holding each other to account.

- 5.6** The city's new SEND Strategy: 'Making Leeds a great place to learn for all our children and young people: the Leeds SEND Strategy 2014 -2017', provides clear strategic direction and outcomes for our partners to meet in relation to children and young people with SEN and disability. The strategy sets out the city's aspirations for the period from 2014 to 2017 and an action plan has been developed to monitor the actions being taken to achieve them. The strategy and the action plan that supports it are regularly monitored by a steering group, which includes representation of all stakeholders including parents and carers and education providers of various kinds. The group meets at least quarterly and the action plan is a standing item on the agenda.
- 5.7** Commitment 7 relates to the provision cohesive governance and leadership across the disabled children and young people's agenda by working effectively with key partners.
- 5.8** The Complex Needs Partnership Board (CNPB) is a sub-group of the Children's Trust Board, which is part of the local co-operation arrangements which collectively make up the children's trust in Leeds. The CNPB provides a multi-agency governance framework for the strategic direction of inclusive and equitable services for children with complex needs aged 0-25 and their families across the city. The board regularly receives performance reports including reports on the progress of the SEND strategy and its action plan.
- 5.9** There are, however, a couple of commitments where a great deal of work is taking place across partners to address the issues covered in these commitments.
- 5.10** Commitment 1 is about having detailed and accurate information on disabled children and young people living in our area and about providing public information on how we plan to meet their needs.
- 5.11** Partners of the health and wellbeing board record information on the children and young people they provide services to, including children and young people with SEN and disability. In most cases this information is electronically recorded. Where paper records are still being used work is underway to address this.
- 5.12** Leeds has developed a Children's Disability Register. Through its implementation, the register will assist the local authority and partners to provide value to families by enabling them to offer targeted and personalised information at the best opportunity i.e. preparing for school or preparing for adulthood. Other information could include changes to legislation, contact details for supporting organisations, forthcoming activities, and information about specific types of need.

- 5.13** Consultation was undertaken with parents and carers to establish what information families are happy to provide for the register and what types of information they would find helpful from us. The results were used to inform an options paper that was presented to senior managers in Children's Services. In addition to the consultation, the authority is developing a communication and engagement plan that identifies all stakeholders and outlines how the register will be shared and promoted to them. Information about the register will be included in the Leeds local Offer website. The data solution for the register is currently in production and will be ready for use in June 2015.
- 5.14** Commitment 5 focuses on promoting early intervention and support for smooth transitions between children and adult services for disabled children and young people.
- 5.15** There is a great deal of positive evidence in support of this commitment e.g. Year 9 reviews and more recently EHCP's and the provision of specialist advice, guidance and support from the Transitions Service. For example the service has produced a range of information for young people transitioning from Children's Services to Adult Social Care including a guidance document entitled: 'Children's Transition to Adult Social Care' available in a number of accessible formats on the council and other websites.
- 5.16** In addition, Leeds is committed to the Early Support principles which aim to ensure that services are better coordinated, with a key working practitioner who can offer a single point of contact, coordination and support where families need it.
- 5.17** However areas for improvement have been identified which include: joint commissioning and service design between Children's and Adults Services; defining and agreeing safeguarding thresholds between Children's and Adults Services; improvements in the preparations for transition from Children's to Adults services; increasing familiarity with the Mental Capacity Act particularly the parts relating to young people from the age of 16.
- 5.18** The findings of this audit and the information included within the commitment responses is based on the information collected during the course of the audit. As the pace of change in this area is significant, it should be acknowledged that the information used represents information at a particular point in time. However once the audit has been completed, the board may choose to adopt a similar approach to that of the local authority, to regularly review and evaluate improvement work against the charter to ensure continued and further compliance with the charter.
- 5.19** The full responses to the 7 commitments can be found attached to this report.

6.0 Health and Wellbeing Board Governance

The Health and Wellbeing Board is held accountable for the Charter as detailed Supporters' Guide in Appendix 2.

6.1 Consultation and Engagement

6.1.1 Consultation and engagement with key stakeholders is integral to this audit. In addition it has been widely communicated that board has signed the charter and has committed to being compliant with it, to partners and stakeholders, including children and young people with SEN and disability, and their families.

6.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

6.2.1 Being signed up to the Charter is a public demonstration of the commitment of the Health and Wellbeing Board to include children and young people with SEN and disability, and their families as part of their planning, development and commissioning activities.

6.3 Resources and value for money

6.3.1 The audit has had, and will continue to have, some implications in terms of staff time although it is not anticipated that this will be onerous. This will also be the case if further work is agreed to ensure the board is compliant with the charter.

6.4 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

6.4.1 The EDCM Charter commitments cover a range of legislation, statutory requirements policy and guidance. These include the Children and Families Act 2014, Care Act 2014, Health and Social Care Act 2012 (amends the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007), Equality Act 2010, Children Act 2004, Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Article 7 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

6.5 Risk Management

6.5.1 There is a risk that the Health and Wellbeing Board may be asked to provide evidence that they meet the 7 commitments of the charter after one year of signing the charter.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 This report provides the findings of the audit undertaken to determine how Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board, through the work of its partners, fairs against the 7 commitments of the Health and Wellbeing Board EDCM Charter.

7.2 Whilst there is a significant amount of positive evidence for all 7 charter commitments, there are areas where work is being undertaken to address the issues that relate to a couple of the commitments. To monitor progress of the latter

and update the commitments responses, the board should consider using an action/monitoring plan similar to that of the local authority or other tracking mechanism to do monitor these areas.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Approve the audit findings provided above;
- Approve and sign off the Leeds baseline responses to the commitments of the H&WB EDCM Charter; and
- Consider establishing a resource to regularly monitor the areas for development related to the commitments as discussed in the report and to update the charter commitments with an annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This resource should also provide a mechanism for providing an up to date and accurate response to any enquiries in respect of the EDCM charter. Children's Services, on behalf of the Children's Trust Board can offer this resource if this meets with the Board's approval.