

SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 25th October 2017

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Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report provides a briefing on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA process involves many different partners to understand Swindon's changing population, the factors that affect education, health and wellbeing and the implications for future services are vital in setting priorities and planning future services to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
- 1.2 Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are required by the Children and Families Act 2014 to have a coordinated and joint analysis of the data available for SEND need, services and provision available across education, health and social care for ages 0-25. In this JSNA for Swindon, we have drawn upon existing data sources (such as the SEND2 Survey, School Census LAIT tool and LA management information) to identify gaps in knowledge and data, to determine a clear picture of need across Swindon, to identify areas of concern, and current services and provision which will be used to inform the development of SEND Commissioning priorities and strategy.
- 1.3 The draft SEND JSNA 2017 Bulletin is attached at Appendix 1 to the report and highlights the findings. The full JSNA report will be made available at <http://www.swindonjsna.co.uk>.

2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note and approve the recommendations set out in the JSNA briefing (attached at Appendix 1 to the report and as set out in section 4 below) and to monitor progress towards implementing the SEND commissioning strategy to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in Swindon with SEND.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The objective of the SEND JSNA is to identify the needs of the Swindon population in relation to education, health and social care for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25. This helps us to understand what children and young people with SEND need and plan education, health and social care services and provision in the future to improve outcomes. Working with our local

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partners to formulate recommendations that will help inform future cost-effective and impactful commissioning priorities.

Key Messages

- 3.2 Children and young people with SEND face multiple barriers which make it more difficult for them to achieve their potential, to achieve the outcome their peers expect and to succeed in school. The outcomes for children and young people with SEND are not as good as their non-SEND peers.
- 3.3 The number of children and young people with a Statement or Education Health and Care (EHC) plan is 1,595. The number of children and young people with an EHC Plan is increasing but as a percentage of school population is stabilising.
- 3.4 The number of children and young people with SEND Support (with SEND needs but not requiring a statutory plan) is 4,542. The number of children and young people with SEND Support is increasing, but as a percentage of the school population has been reducing since 2012.
- 3.5 The number of children and young people in Swindon with SEND is forecast to increase as the population grows significantly by 2026 and beyond.
- 3.6 The number of children in care in Swindon has increased to 290 which equates to 59 per 10,000 population. 68.7% of children in care have SEND. 32.2% of children in care have a statement of SEN or and EHC plan and 36.5% have SEND Support. More research needs to be done to understand why the number of children in care is increasing and why there is a disproportionate number of children in care with SEND.
- 3.7 In 2017 school census 29.8% of those at school with an EHC plan have a primary need related to Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This is the most common reason for an EHC plan.
- 3.8 In 2017 school census 15.9% of those at school with an EHC plan have a primary need of social, emotional and mental health difficulty.
- 3.9 In 2017 school census 10.9% of those at school with an EHC plan have a primary need of speech, language and communication needs.
- 3.10 In Swindon there is a good range of services and provision for children and young people with SEND across education, health and social care. The increase in demand across SEND has resulted in pressure for education settings and place planning. There is a reported pressure on commissioned services such as speech and language therapy, due to the increasing demand in the context of a static High Needs Block of the Designated School Grant.

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4. Recommendations

Joint Commissioning Priorities identified as:

- 4.1 **Autistic Spectrum Disorder** – the school census data shows that the incidence students with a primary need of ASD is 29.8% of the school population which 5.7% increase in this primary need in Swindon since January 2016. The evidence indicates that early identification, support and provision to meet the needs and improve the outcomes of children and young people with ASD should be a joint commissioning priority for the LA and CCG.
- 4.2 **Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) Difficulties** – 10.9% of the Swindon school population have Speech, Language and Communication identified as their primary need. This represents a 9% reduction from 2016. However, demand for the Speech and Language Therapy Service has consistently increased year on year with the service receiving very high numbers of referrals and increased number of students with a range of primary needs, particularly those with ASD requiring therapeutic input. Early identification, support and provision to meet the needs and improve outcomes for children and young people with SLC difficulties should be a joint commissioning priority for the LA and CCG.
- 4.3 **Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Difficulties** – Students with a primary need of Social, Emotional and Mental Health is 15.9% of the school population. The rate of hospital admissions for self-harm in young people aged 10 to 24 years is significantly higher than in England as a whole. Early identification, support and provision to meet the needs and improve the outcomes of children and young people with SEMH should be a joint commissioning priority for the LA and the CCG.
- 4.4 **Specialist provision and services** - work alongside colleagues across SBC and the CCG when commissioning and/or decommissioning specialist provision and services in Swindon to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and improve their outcomes.
- 4.5 **Employment for SEND** – Alongside colleagues through employment and training workstream review current provision and options and outcome measures for young people to increase the percentage of young people with SEND in sustainable paid employment. Identify support and provision options and pathways for future commissioning priorities for the LA and the CCG.

Data Monitoring Priorities identified as:

- 4.6 **SEND Population and demographic** – The percentage of the school population with a Statement or EHC plan is 3.7% and has reduced since 2016 by 0.1%. Swindon is 0.9% above the national average where the picture has remained stable at 2.8%. The LA should continue to closely monitor the overall SEND

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population to ensure that the percentage of children and young people with a Statement or EHC Plan continues to reduce in line with national average as the population in Swindon increases. In addition to ensure that the proportion with EHC plans at each age group remains stable. This will be achieved through implementation of the SEND strategy and SEND commissioning strategy which is under development and being informed by this JSNA. Actions include supporting early identification of need, review of resource allocation mechanisms and ensuring robust decision making processes and monitoring.

- 4.7 **Requests for Statutory Assessment and EHCP issued** – Since 2012 the number of EHC Plans/Statements issued annually has been on an upward trajectory. The LA should continue to closely monitor by age range the proportion of requests per 10,000 of the population and against national and regional benchmarks to ensure that this remains stable and begins to reduce over time.

Further Research and Analysis priorities are:

- 4.8 **Children in Care with SEND** – Children in Care in Swindon are more likely to have SEND, further research and analysis is required of the SEND cohort of children in care to identify why there is a disproportionate number of children in care with SEND and their outcomes. Once this is better understood this should inform the a joint commissioning priority for the LA and CCG to ensure there is early identification, support and provision in place to meet the needs and improve the outcomes of children in care with SEND.
- 4.9 **Employment outcomes for young people with SEND** – develop baseline data on outcomes and employment for young people with SEND in order to develop strategies and commissioning priorities to improve employment outcomes for young all people with SEND.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 Continue with the current joint commissioning arrangements in place for SEND children and young people. A coordinated approach to analysis and joint commissioning strategy is better able to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND. There would be a risk to Swindon Borough Council and the CCG as they would not be compliant with the Children and Families Act 2014 which requires them to have a coordinated and joint analysis of the data available for SEND need, services and provision available across education, health and social care for ages 0-25. This would be a significant area of concern for the imminent SEND Area Ofsted inspection.

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6. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations in this report. However they could have a financial impact which will need to be assessed as part of the implementation process.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 6.2 There are no legal or human rights implication arising as a result of this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 6.3 There are no other implications arising as a result of this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 6.4 Based on the information contained in this report we do not believe that there is any adverse impact for any protected equality characteristic group as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Risk Management

- 6.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this time.

7. Consultees

- 7.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Bulletin.