

Progress update for SEND Voices, Wokingham AGM

- 8/3/2023



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Introductions

Ming Zhang: Interim Assistant Director Learning, Achievements and Partnerships - WBC

Jamie Conran: Head of SEND - WBC

Jonathan Wilding: SEND Programme Manager - WBC

Miranda Walcott: Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (0-25)
- Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board

New Provision – Due to open or planned for future development:

Provision (& Category of Need Served)	Places	Intended Opening Date
Addington - expansion at Farley Hill	40 additional places	Phased between September 2023-2024
Oaktree Special Free School (– ASC)	150 shared with Reading	Opening September 2023
2 New Special Free Schools <i>announced March 2023</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEMH • Broad Spectrum – SLD / PMLD / MSI 	100 per school	Opening September 2026
<i>Currently awaiting outcome of High Needs Capital Bid for £6.3m. If successful this will also provide:</i>		
RESOURCE BASES & DESIGNATED SEND UNITS (ASD / SLCN or SEMH / complex needs) <i>Current expression of interest process open for schools</i>	3 new Resource Bases and 4 new SEND Units providing 100 additional places by 2027	Phased between 2023 and 2027
POST 16 PROVISION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 16 Centre of SEND Excellence • Post 16 SEND Training and Skills Centre - Separate offsite satellite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 Students • 25 Students 	Opening September 2025

This expansion programme will see an increase in local specialist provision as follows:

**391 places in 2022
751 places by 2027
851 places by 2030**

Inclusion in Schools – New Developments

- New SEN Support Service – Under Development in partnership with schools – planned launch Autumn 2023
- Specialist Outreach for Schools – being recommissioned

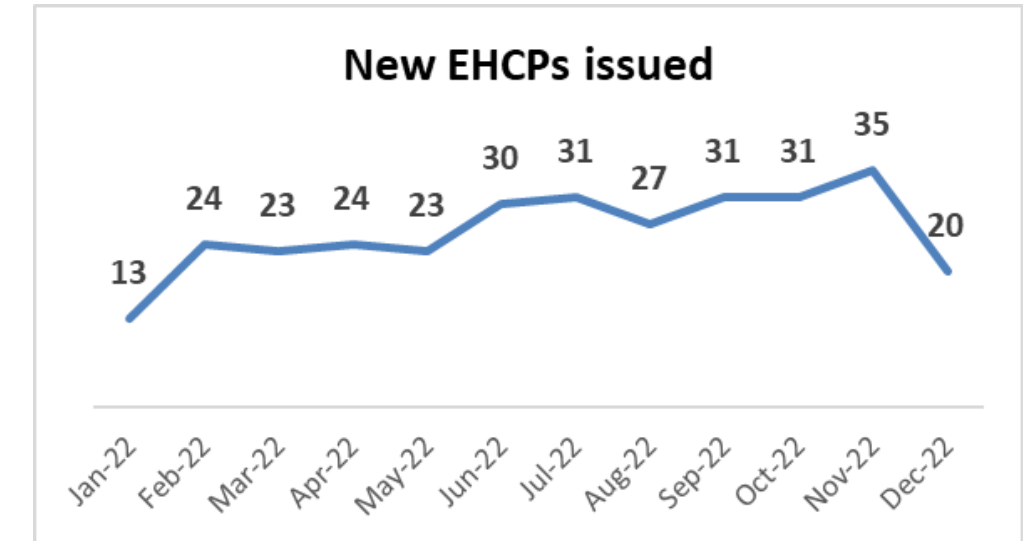
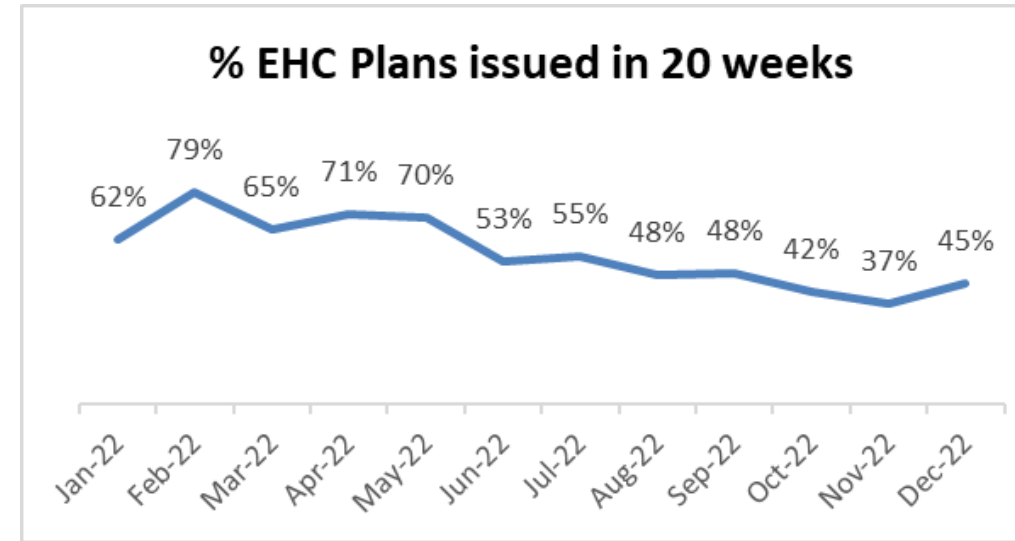
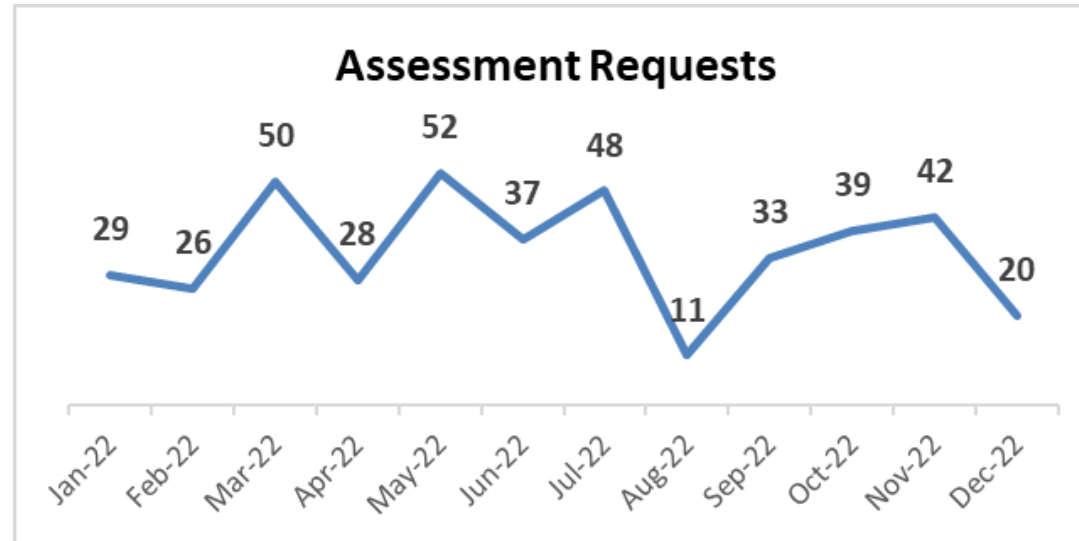
- Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board undergoing a restructure
- Working to move towards closer and earlier integration between local authority, schools and health systems – to avoid escalation and better share resources
- **Review of local Therapy provision** is underway in close partnership with Local Authority. This is in order to ensure earlier access to support for children needing this support and to avoid unnecessary escalation and delay

- WBC has just heard that Wokingham is being allocated an additional Mental Health Support Team (MHST) to support schools in the Borough
- Review of CAMHS Specification underway - will be restructured in line with the THRIVE Framework
 - THRIVE Framework is an integrated, person centred and needs led approach delivering mental health services for children, young people and their families
 - Children, young people and their families are actively involved in decision making
 - Emphasis on early intervention and prevention and the promotion of mental health and wellbeing across the whole population

Headline Data

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

2022:



2023:

Timeliness:

January 47%

February 57% (75% if applying DfE exceptions)

Annual reviews:

Significant backlog (450 ARs) processed by September 2022.

675 Annual Review documents received since September 2022:

- 13% still being processed
- 39% EHCP maintained (no amendments)
- 48% yes to amend (of these, 69% final amended EHCPs issued)

Key Stage Transfer (KST) Process 2023 (e.g. Transition from Year 6 to Year 7)

- 100% of minus-1s and years 2 plans issued naming a setting in their EHCP.
- 93% (79 out of 85) Year 6s issued naming a setting in their EHCP.
- 100% amended EHCPs issued on time (either naming a setting or type).

Whilst we continue to strive for the highest standards to support our work with children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities, we are aware that we don't always get it right and we are still on a journey of improvement to ensure that families (and children/young people) can really see and experience the progress we have made.

Using COMMUNICATION as an example:

Our Issue:

- Whilst we have made changes to our processes to ensure we communicate with families in a timely manner, we know that this (still) isn't always the experience of families we work with.

Our vision:

- We understand that **proactive** (rather than reactive- simply responding to queries / update requests from families) communication is key and we are committed to this being the 'norm' or typical experience within Wokingham.
- We also want to continue to develop open, honest and transparent communication, even when this might involve challenging conversations.

Actions taken to date:

- Both myself and the interim SEND Area Manager (Charlotte Greenbank) have met with a range of families where concerns have been raised to support with re-establishing lines of communication (where required) and agree/progress with next steps.
- Charlotte attended a SEND Voices Wokingham SEND Event (virtual) to answer any questions families had relating to the SEND Team / processes. This will be a regular feature across the calendar.
- The SEND Team has undertaken a 'Customer Journey' exercise to identify key areas for development (and build on what is going well).
- SEND Managers meet weekly with their Teams to support and challenge, including a focus on proactive communication.

Compliments:

- We are grateful for the time taken by families to share when things have gone well or if there has been especially good practice by an Officer within the SEND Team.
- We celebrate these compliments, but also draw on them to continue our efforts to offer a **consistently 'good'** experience to children, young people and their families.

EOTAS:

- We know this is an area that requires immediate attention, and it is a priority for us. Whilst we have made some swift changes to support EOTAS cohort, we need to do more and will work closely with partners to develop this area.

SEND Team Developments

Do you have any questions?

For case specific questions, concerns, or indeed compliments!, we will work with Sarah and Terri to pick these up outside of this meeting, with respect to confidentiality.

