

Children's Services Update

Sal Thirlway

Assistant Director Children's Services
(Learning, Achievement & Partnerships)

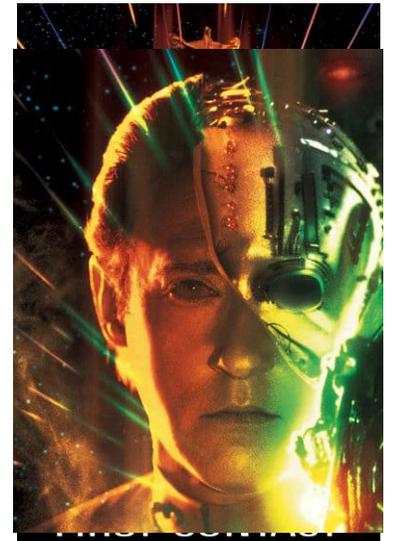
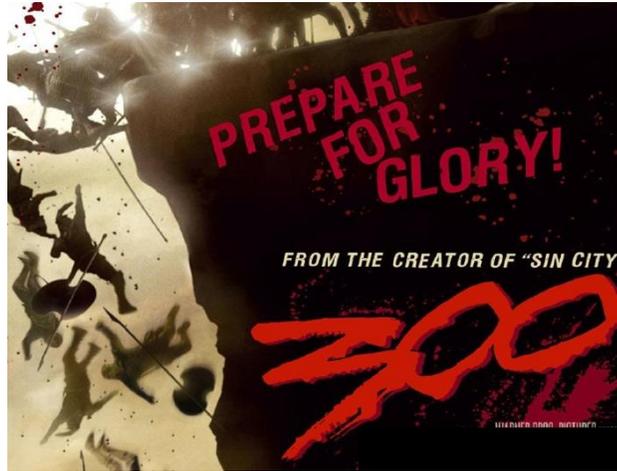
SEND Improvement & the WSOA

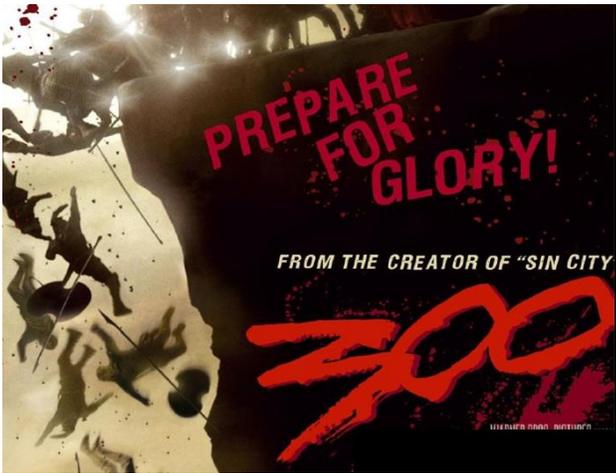
The SEND Improvement Board (established in September 2019), is responsible for managing and monitoring actions as part of the WSoA, reflects and maintains strategic oversight. The Board is responsive to the key areas for improvement identified within the SEND Inspection Letter. The role of the Wokingham SEND Improvement Board is to ensure the delivery of improvements in relation to the six identified areas outlined within the WSoA.

Since September 2019, the SEND Improvement Board (SIB) has met on seven occasions with the most recent meeting having taken place on 3rd March 2020. As per the agreed Terms of Reference the SIB meetings take place on a monthly basis to monitor the progress of the six task and finish groups working on the Written Statement of Action (WSoA).

The task and finish groups have been established to address the six development areas identified by the SEND Local Area Inspection which took place in March 2019.







Task and finish group 1

SEND Strategy

This group is tasked with looking at the lack of a clearly communicated co-produced strategy and accompanying action plans that are shared and understood across education, health and care in the local area and sharply focused on improving the outcomes of children and young people with SEND.

As part of the inspection concerns were raised by Ofsted and CQC that whilst there had been work undertaken in respect of developing a SEND Strategy for Wokingham, this had gone through numerous iterations, with no strategy being ratified, thus leaving Wokingham with no strategic drive in respect of its SEND arrangements.

Building on these previous iterations of the Wokingham SEND Strategy, the Task and Finish Group has drawn on current information and data, and feedback from partners in order to develop a working document that enables a coherent approach to the key priorities for SEND within the Borough (attached).

This working strategy document is intended to provide for the strategic approach to the key priorities, whilst a fully co-produced strategy is developed, building on these priorities and enabling a broader scope for the direction of improvement of provision and services for children with SEND and their families.

As such, an additional strategic action has been added to the plan, to ensure the co-development of its replacement with anticipated delivery in December 2020.

The current working strategy document was endorsed by the SIB at its meeting on the 13th January 2020 and is now live on the Local Offer Website.



Task and finish group 2

Timeliness and Quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

This group is tasked with looking at the timeliness and quality of EHC plans.

The group has identified that a “process map” is needed from Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT), which sets out what happens operationally when the LA alerts them that a statutory request for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) request has been received by the LA. The same is required of Social Care.

Wokingham has been participating in the West Berkshire EHCP auditing process. All recommendations from the Berkshire West EHCP audit are being pulled together and brought to the task and finish group identify actions and inform improvements.

In February Wokingham shall host the multi-agency/ multi-authority audit session, whereby each local authority shall present 5 cases and collaboratively audit them together.

The group has also considered multiagency decision making arrangements in other areas, as well as solutions to challenges identified at the previous meeting. During the spring term it is proposed to commence developing recommendations in relation to multiagency decision making pathways.

There has been improvement in timeliness from 0% on target from Jan to Jul 2019 to current performance (Feb 20), of 53% within 20 weeks.



This group is tasked with looking at the lack of co-production at a strategic level to inform effective co-production at all levels

This group is chaired by chair of SEND Voices Wokingham (SVW) and have a Terms of Reference agreed especially for this specific group. It was agreed the Task and finish group will begin to develop a workable draft co production agreement and then involve young people and additional members to the group. The group has identified that at present there is no clear policy or process on how a consultation / coproduction should take place and relies heavily on individual knowledge.

A Co-Production Workshop (training) took place on 14th November 19 with good multi-agency attendance and a number of representatives from WBC. This has informed the work of the sub-group and resulted in the formulation of a Co-production charter, which also takes reference from a “Ladder of Coproduction” developed by SEND Voices Wokingham.

The task and finish group has also proposed that Wokingham take part in and run events during the National Coproduction week which takes place in July 2020.

Task and finish group 3

Co-production

SEND Co-production Charter





Task and finish group 4

Management information

This group is tasked with looking at the quality of management information to inform accurate evaluation and energise service improvement across the local area

The group have agreed to use the Council for Disabled Children's multi-agency dataset as a basis for Wokingham SEND dashboard. The task and finish group currently working on pulling together a dashboard proposal with an identified owner for each indicator and a RAG rating indicating how close they are to being able to report on this with reports to the SIB on progress.

It has been noted that without full representation of all health partners, questions around the availability and interpretation of some indicators will be difficult to get clarity on, therefore a key action going forward is to identify relevant Health reps from the CCG, BHFT & RBH to be part of task and finish group.



Task and finish group 5

Joined up Working

This group is tasked with looking at the lack of well-coordinated and effectively joined-up work across Education, Health and Social Care.

Multi-agency Quality Assurance audit of review EHCPs. This piece of work overlaps with work being carried out in Task and finish group 2 who are looking to take forward the recommendations that have come out of this pan West Berkshire EHCP audits and the Pan Berkshire Call to Action event that took place in Feb 2019.

The group has identified the need for a robust graduated response/ ordinarily available document and it including input for health and social care provision. WBC do have graduated response guidance however this has not been reviewed since 2016 and needs updating.

The task and finish group is considering multiagency decision making arrangements in other areas across the country and looking at examples of best practise



Task and finish group 6

Transitions

This group is tasked with looking at the underdeveloped pathway to enable young people with SEND to make a successful transition to adulthood.

All task and finish group members have had an opportunity to comment on the WBC Approaching Adulthood draft policy. Group members are developing an Approaching Adulthood pack, which provides information for young people, and parents / carers which will need to be co-produced.

The group is developing a professional checklist and aim to relaunch the Transitions Mapping Group in late January 2020. They have identified that they need to establish health representatives on group.

The group has also identified that work around reviews links in with work being carried out in task and finish groups 2 and 5 and therefore there needs to be more joined up working to avoid duplication.



- Document sharing (Process maps, EHCP Templates, Panel ToR's, etc)
- Collaborative case moderation exercise that builds on existing audit activity
- Workforce development information and support
- Wokingham Visit to observe Portsmouth panel arrangements
- Wokingham visit to observe Portsmouth Co-production meeting process.
- Data and System comparator session
- Critical friend review of EHCP needs assessment arrangements



A R R I V A L

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

School Admissions Improvement Agenda

- Reinvestment within the School Admissions Team
- Review of process and pathways
- School Admissions Forum disbanded
- School Admissions Working Group (to Schools Forum)
- Better Pathways between School Admissions and SEND Team
- Better Pathways between School Admissions and HTST



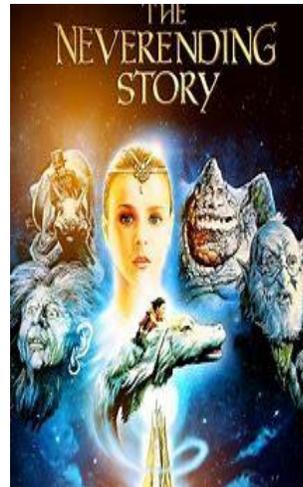
Home to School Transport Improvement Agenda

- Reinvestment within the Home to School Transport Team
- Review of process and pathways
- Route Optimisation
- DPS Review
- School Admissions Working Group (to Schools Forum)
- Better Pathways between HTST and SEND Team
- Better Pathways between HTST and School Admissions

A New Hope – My Priorities (Obsessions)



- Inclusion



- Partnership

- Continuous Improvement



