

Quality EHC Plans: Calderdale

Calderdale context:

- West Yorks. - mixed urban/rural communities - borders Kirklees, Bradford, Lancashire and Rochdale LA areas
- Main ethnic groups of Pakistani and Indian origin - growing Eastern European community
- Current population of 206,335 - under 18 population of 45,771, 22.2% of total population
- 1,453 (0-19 year olds) children and young people with a disability, 2.9% of 0-19 population
- Around 1000 Statements of SEN September 2014
- 100 schools - 86 primary (19,844 pupils) - 14 secondary (15,603 pupils) - includes 3 generic special schools - 1 secondary and 2 primary

Calderdale context:

- Inclusive approach to SEND - well established inclusion network - strong senior leadership support for SEND
- Well established broad based SEN Team - assessment and review plus ...
- Inclusive centrally maintained early-years and complex needs support services
- Clear SENDIASS arrangements
- One CCG - sharing same geographical locality as the LA - supports area planning
- Long established links between Calderdale Parent and Carers and LA

EHC Plans:

EHC Plans: new assessments

- 96 Final Plans issued September 2014 to October 2015
- following new assessments, including in assessment move into LA area
- 71% within 20 weeks
- 90% within 22 weeks
- Significant % following early-years referrals - further group of referrals in upper KS2 - fewer secondary school referrals - one new FE referral
- Two thirds male
- Located across the LA area

EHC Plans: transfers

- 275 Final Plans issued September 2014 to end November 2015 - following EHC transfer reviews
- 97% within 20 weeks
- 74% within 14 weeks
- Year groups in line with transfer plan - focused around phase transfers
- Two thirds male
- Across the LA area

Co-production:

Co-production: Involving parent / carers and young people

- Experienced SEN Team - confidence to support co-production - experience of working with families
- Named SEN Officer - early in the 20 week assessment process - EHC transfers, attending all transfer reviews
- Focus on co-production - new assessments: Week 14 outcome meeting - EHC transfers: transfer review meeting - both SEN Officer facilitated
- Honest relationships - LA, IS and SENDIASS
- Support for schools - strong SENCO Network
- Strong early-years focus - working with families from an early age

Co-production: Involving parent / carers and young people

- Pathfinder status - area wide shared understanding
- Significant focus on family and child/young person views - Calderdale Parent and Carers 'parent planners' working with schools
- Training focus: area wide introduction, Key Worker and parent information sessions
- Communication focus: SEND Bulletin - 'Inclusive Calderdale' - SEN Team newsletters
- Use of Additional Needs Support Plans building from early-years - mirroring EHC Plans at SEN support

Timely Plans:

Timely Plans:

- Line manager and senior leadership support essential
 - whole area approach - builds on quality SEN Support
- Use of the SEND implementation monies: enhanced SEN Team staffing levels - skilled staff - investment in area wide training and communication
- Good links with CCG - DMO involvement - ensuring timely approach to health reports and funding
- Social care involvement in the pathway
- Responsible officer oversight, individual timeframes
- Joint ownership essential - regular reflection and honest analysis of the assessment process - successes and challenges

Timely Plans: new assessments

- Development of new assessment pathway - key elements:
 - Pre assessment requests - high expectations of schools, early-years and colleges - importance of SEN Support - use of Notional SEN Budget etc. - clear communication with all partners
 - By Week 6 - assessment decision - multi-disciplinary Moderating Panel chaired by a head teacher - including Paediatric Therapy, social care and SENDIASS representation - rationale for decisions clearly communicated

Timely Plans: new assessments

- By Week 12 - collated advice and reports - Health reports - Educational Psychology advice - joint development of 'report frames'
- By Week 14 - outcome meeting - parent/carer, child/young person SEN Officer, School etc. and other involved agencies - early planning ensures key attendees are available
- By Week 16 - draft Plan - SEN Officer led - prioritisation and high expectation
- By Week 20 - Final Plan

Timely Plans: EHC transfers

- Development of an EHC transfer plan and pathway - key elements:
 - Clear transfer plan - shared with all stakeholders - focused on phase transfers - lead officer overview of the plan
 - Co-ordination with schools - arranging review dates - letters to parent/carers and young people
 - EHC transfer review meeting - SEN Officer attendance and facilitation central to timely success
 - Week 16 draft Plan - SEN Officer oversight - clear structure to ensure timely plans written

Quality Assurance:

EHC Plans: Quality Assurance

- Open and reflective approach: 'no-one gets it right all of the time' - SEN Team working closely with parents / carers, young people and a range of colleagues - prepared to listen and amend practice
- Development of an Accountability Group - QA monitoring and overview
- All draft Plans peer reviewed pre-circulation - further reading for 'readability', immediately prior to circulation
- All Plans monitored for nature and extent of health and social care elements - forward planning - looking towards development of truly joint EHC Plans

EHC Plans: Quality Assurance

- Termly SEN Team reflection - reflection on random sample of plans - consistency of approach - functionality of EHC Plan frame - lessons learnt
- Annual Assessment and Plan Workstream QA - SEND project manager, early-years lead, early-intervention lead and SEN Manager - based on CDC headings - working on structure to include parent representation in formal QA, possibly through a Focus Group approach

EHC Plans: Quality Assurance

- Regional QA - focused around the 'golden thread', how the Plan 'feels' - initially with York - following discussion with regional SEN Officers regional QA group to widen out
- Parent / young person surveys - feedback to date largely positive
- POET involvement - more recent move - awaiting first feedback
- Reflection on Calderdale Parent and Carers annual survey

Next steps:

Areas for future development ...

- Further area wide focus on systematic co-production at SEN Support - underpins any move to EHC assessment
- Assessment management: move to a Portal Approach - linked to CAPITA module, allowing 'live view' Plan building for parent/carers, young people and others
- Improved links with Health - new Health appointment from January - more robust advice pathway - joint funding - better build health into the QA process
- Develop stronger links with CAMHS - regular meeting planned
- Broaden QA to better include parent and young people representation

Some challenges and risks:

Some challenges and risks:

- Significant workload for SEN Teams - EHC transfers particularly demanding - has meant a reduction in the time available to support families when things 'break down' - short-term impact
- Post 16 phase transfer deadline unrealistic - short term impact on EHC transfers - longer term impact on legitimacy of Post 16 planning
- Period of high expectations - tendency in some quarters to see EHC Plans as an answer to wide-ranging social issues and other pressures - risks in viewing EHC Plans separately from wider SEN Support
- SEND reforms structured at a time of financial pressure - implementation monies have helped but ...

Questions and Discussion