

# Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Dorset County Council**



Date of Meeting	19 January 2017
Officer	Director for Children's Services
<b>Subject of Report</b>	<b>Progression of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and Post 16 residential placements</b>
Executive Summary	There has been significant improvement in the 2016-17 academic year on timescales for new Education, Health and Care Plans and development work is still continuing.
Impact Assessment:  <i>Please refer to the <a href="#">protocol</a> for writing reports.</i>	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not applicable
	Use of Evidence: Data used in this report have been drawn from the SEN Synergy database.
	Budget: Funding for EHCP provision is from the High Needs Block of the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant. The HNB continues to be under considerable pressure and is forecast to overspend by £5.1 million in 2016/17.
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: MEDIUM Residual Risk MEDIUM <i>(i.e. reflecting the recommendations in this report and mitigating actions proposed)</i>
	Other Implications: Although at a lower level, there continue to be reputational, financial and service criticality risks to this service.

Recommendation	The Committee note the progress made and the further actions required.
Reason for Recommendation	The improvement of this area of service will continue to be a priority
Appendices	Appendix 1 – SEND Development Plan Appendix 2 – HNB Sufficiency Working Group Action Plan
Background Papers	Previous report to this committee at its meeting of 5 <sup>th</sup> October
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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 An initial report on this area was brought to the Committee's meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> October which identified the difficulties of delivering the new Education, Health and Care Plans within the reduced 20-week timescale set by recent legislation. In parallel, reports have also been made to the Schools' Forum meetings in September and December 2016, identifying the risk of significant overspends on the High Needs Budget, the apparent drivers for these and what control actions had been taken and were proposed.
- 1.2 The drivers for both these areas of difficulty have been higher volumes of referrals, assessments and students, particularly post16, caused by demography and the changed legislation.
- 1.3 Control and improvement work has been taking place in the context of the SEND Strategic Development Plan which continues to be the vehicle for significant change.

## **2. The National Picture**

- 2.1 There is continued recognition by Government that the reforms put in place by the Children and Families Act 2014 have required significant additional resource on behalf of local authorities to be delivered. As a result, transitional reform grant funding has been available in each year, and this will continue into 2017/18, for Dorset at a level of £269,367. In recognition of local authorities' need to reduce costs by securing a local sufficiency of appropriate school places, there is also a new SEN Sufficiency Grant to support strategic review work. For Dorset, this will be £154,677.
- 2.2 It has also been announced that the Government will be adding to the High Needs Budget next year to cover the costs of additional post 16 places. The budget will be based on the "Baseline + uplift" and will include £125 million that is to be transferred from the DfE's post-16 budget to the high needs block baseline. This is a transfer of place funding for high needs places in FE colleges and post-16 charitable and commercial providers (CCPs). DfE said that there would be no losers. This is welcome, but could be said to be coming one year too late, as these places are part of the pressures on spend this year.

## **3. The Dorset Picture**

### **3.1 Growth in Numbers**

As with the overall population in Dorset, which is increasing by about 1.5% per year, the number of children with an SEN Statement or EHC Plan also continues to grow. Up until 2015, the proportion of the pupil population with a statement or plan has remained steady at 2.5%, just below the national average, with about 250 new requests for assessment per year. However, in 2016, the volume of requests for formal assessments more than doubled to 517, of which 350 resulted in an EHC Plan (68%). This is likely to be a result of additional post-16 cases and reduced availability to schools of Educational Psychologist time.

### 3.2 **Control measures**

As part of the actions needed to improve performance on processing timelines, meetings of the SEN Panel have been held more often and more regularly, to deal with the increased work load. These include school head teacher colleagues. In addition, all recommended decisions of each meeting are scrutinised by both the Senior Manager, SEND 0-25, and the Assistant Director for Prevention & Partnership. This is intended to moderate the proportion of requests that result in an EHCP. Since September 2016, 14 out of 30 requests (47%) have resulted in a formal assessment and an EHCP, with 21 cases still pending, which will help provide a bigger sample.

### 3.3 **SEND Strategic Development Plan 2016-2019**

The updated version of this plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. It has six main long term outcomes:

- Meeting SEND timescales
- Local sufficiency of high quality SEND provision
- Effective signposting and communication around the SEND system for young people, their parents/carers and partners
- Development of an integrated 0-25 SEND service
- Preparation for SEND Area Inspection
- Reduction in the cost of specialist placements

### 3.4 **SEN Timescales**

All the backlogged requests for assessments had initial decisions before the end of October and are processing through the system as quickly as possible. New requests are now on track to be processed within the twenty week timescale. The statement data has been cleaned up and this has led to a reduction in cost estimates for some placements. The volume of statements to be transferred into plans is being processed as quickly as possible by a dedicated team of Transfer Review Officers. Management data is much improved.

### 3.5 **Sufficiency**

The draft strategy for SEMH and the use of alternative provision is in place and being worked through with partners. The timeline and action plan for the base provision review has been published, visits to Special School Heads have been completed, a workshop has been held with Special School leaders and the Special School Review is about to get under way. Targeted Annual Reviews will include LA officers from appropriate teams in 2017. An action plan is in place to work with schools on expectations and standards around SEND and visits have commenced.

### 3.6 **Signposting**

Improved Local Offer content is being published on Dorset for You on a rolling basis. There is a draft Children's Services Communications Strategy with officers for comment currently and this area will receive some investment. A new workstream group has been set up to promote the Voice of the Child.

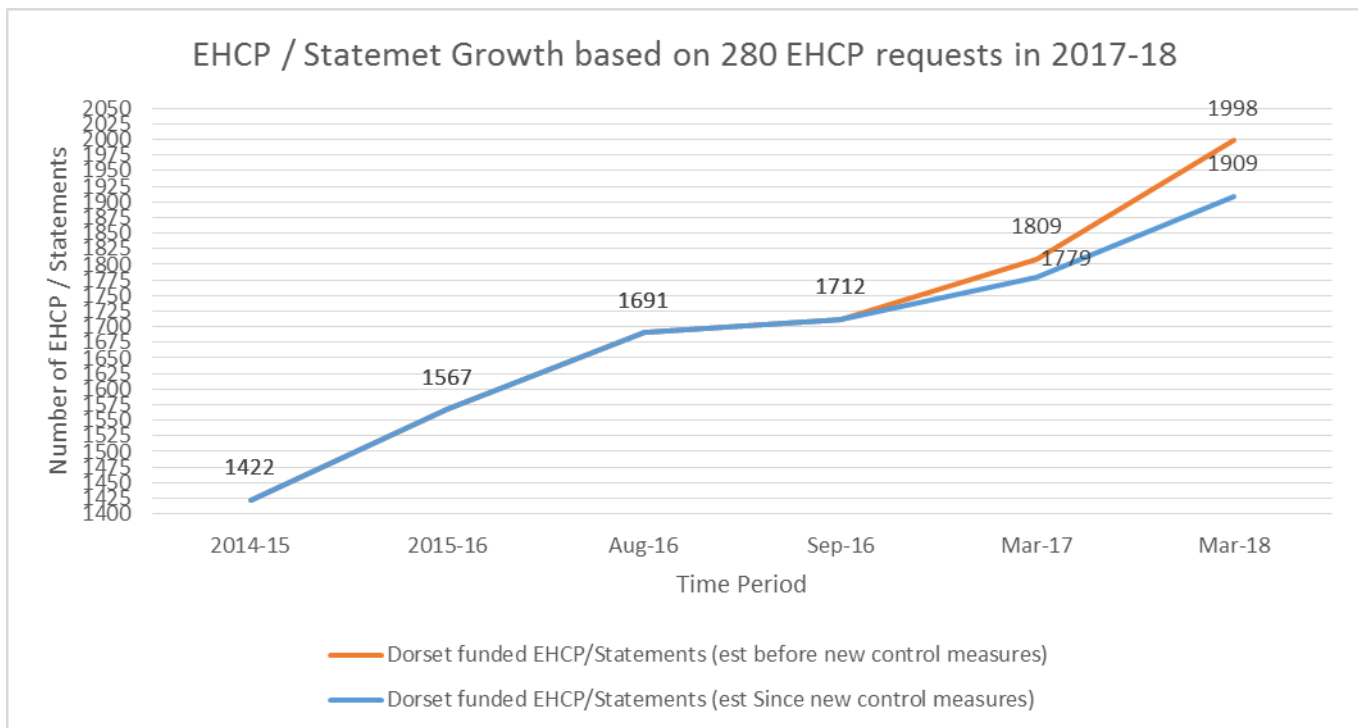
### 3.7 **Integrated 0-25 SEND Service**

Children's services have brought together under one manager the SEN Assessment Team, the County Educational Psychology Service, the Specialist SEN Teaching and Advisory Services, and next year, the Children Who Are Disabled team. Many of these are due to be co-located at Prince's House, Dorchester in due course. The monthly Steering Group driving this continues with its work.

- 3.8 **SEN Inspection Preparation**  
Data collection is nearly complete and a review is underway with an audit tool successfully used in Bournemouth. Meetings alerting and briefing internal partners have taken place and further meetings with stakeholders and partners are set for early 2017.
- 3.9 **Reducing High Cost Placements**  
This is the focus of the High Needs Budget Sufficiency Group which has been established and written its own Action Plan which is attached as Appendix 2. The data cleanse of the Synergy database has also been very successful in reducing costs.
- 3.10 **High Needs Budget Sufficiency Group Action Plan**  
This developing Action Plan is attached as Appendix 2 to this report and consists of the following key outputs:
- High cost placements reviewed for impact and value for money
  - Accurate management forecasts
  - Contract reviews to reduce costs with large scale providers
  - Specialist services to provide packages of pre-assessment support
  - Delivery and implementation of the Specialist Provision Review
- 3.11 **Placement Review**  
The Senior Manager and Assistant Director scrutinise all SEN Panel recommended decisions and placements. The membership and terms of reference for the new Complex Case Panel have been identified. Desk review of the most high cost existing placements is still under way. All high cost placement annual reviews need to be attended by Local Authority representatives focused on continued appropriateness, alternatives and outcomes.
- 3.12 **Accurate Management Forecasts**  
The Synergy database is being cleaned up and reports are beginning to provide clearer, more accurate pictures. This has resulted in a £600,000 reduction in some areas of forecast costs as a result of improved data accuracy.
- 3.13 **Contract Reviews**  
Regular contract review meetings with major providers will restart in 2017. An accurate provision map is in development so that commissioners and placing officers have a much clearer picture of local alternatives to high cost provision.
- 3.14 **Specialist Services Prevention Packages**  
The focus group to develop short term specialist packages for crisis situations regarding complex needs has been established, the business case written and appropriate processes agreed with other agencies.
- 3.15 **Specialist Provision Reviews**  
The base review has been completed in Dorchester and nearly everything is in place for September 2017 start. School visits are taking place to identify base sites in the rest of the county. More information will be available for stakeholders in December in the form of an updated position statement.
- 3.16 **Financial Projections**  
We have been seeking to project for the full financial year, based on the September 2016 number of SEN Statements/EHCPs of 1712 and using the

previous trend data compared with the most recent trend data. Based on these profiles and information there would be around 280 requests for EHCPs in 2017-18. Average requests are approximately 250pa, but there were 517 requests for EHCPs in 2016-17 so more work would be required to assess the strength of the 280 figure. This is shown below in table and graph form:

	ACTUAL (Dorset Funded) September '16	Estimated @ 31/3/2017	Growth - EHCP Requests (2017-18 estimate)									
			150	200	250	280	300	350	400	450	550	
EHCP / Statements - 68% of requests receive plans (before control actions)	1712	1809	1910	1944	1978	1998	2012	2046	2079	2113	2181	
EHCP / Statements - 47% of requests receive plans (Since control actions)	1712	1779	1849	1872	1895	1909	1919	1942	1965	1989	2035	



The significance of this is critical. In September 2016, out of the 1712 Statements / EHCPs, 9.4% attended an Out of County provision at an average cost of £62,200.

The projection of numbers of statements/plans for March 2018 suggests that the new senior officer scrutiny and panel arrangements could have the effect of reducing the number of them by 89. This would mean nearly 8 fewer Out of County Placements, or an additional cost of £498,000 prevented by the new arrangements. It is early days with the new controls (and data), but the signs are positive.

Of course, this does not reduce the numbers of EHCPs, which can only be ceased after an annual review process, including recourse to the SEND Tribunal, or when a young adult turns 25. The more involved and proactive approach to annual reviews which will be taken will mean there will be some

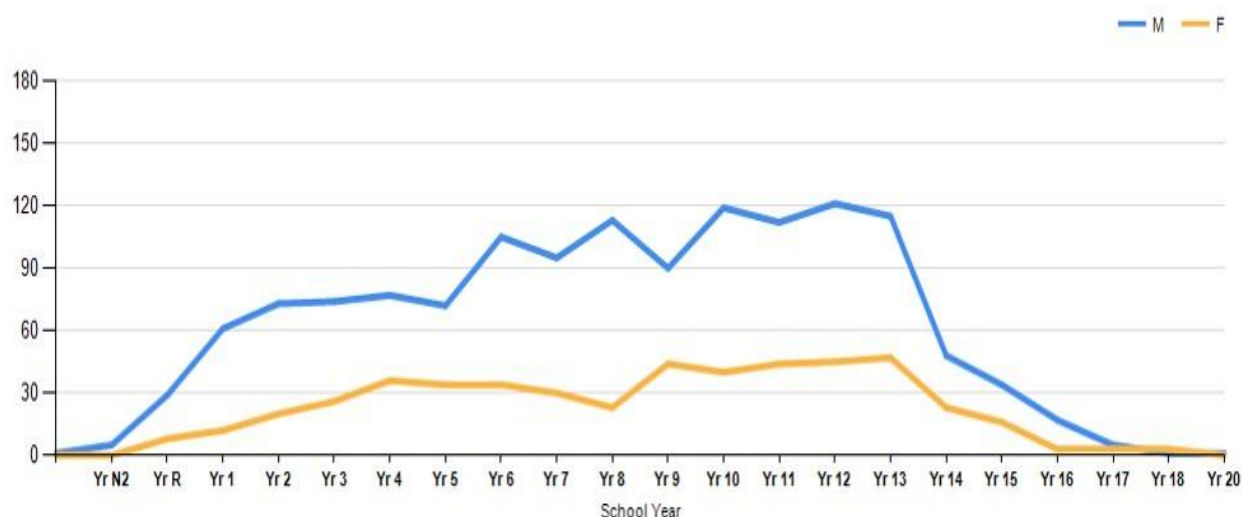
appropriate opportunities to change support arrangements or placements or cease the plan altogether, However, this is difficult to predict at this stage.

## SEN Statistical Information

ALL ECHP / STATEMENTS, INCLUDING NON-DORSET FUNDED

From Synergy (21/11/2017)

Gender and National Curriculum Years for Statemented / EHCP



	Yr N2	Yr R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 14	Yr 15	Yr 16	Yr 17	Yr 18	Yr 20	Total	
M	1	5	29	56	72	73	77	70	104	93	112	90	119	111	118	111	48	34	17	5	1	1	1347
F	0	0	8	12	20	26	36	34	34	30	23	44	39	42	44	47	23	16	3	3	3	0	487
Total	1	5	37	68	92	99	113	104	138	123	135	134	158	153	162	158	71	50	20	8	4	1	1834

The above figures show the current age and gender distribution but will not yet show the full effect of the new specific rights to an EHCP for post 16 young people.

### 4. Current Financial Projections and Recovery

- 4.1 The most recent forecast outturn suggests a High Needs Block overspend of £5.1m. The major driver is the growth in the number of pupils with EHC Plans. Major pressures continue around the independent sector placements budget (£2.6m forecast overspend), SEN Top Ups (£1.1m forecast overspend) and the Post 16 placement budget (£0.76m forecast overspend).
- 4.2 Any HNB overspend will need to be managed as per a school in deficit. A recovery plan is being created, detailing when the deficit will be recovered and against which parts of the Dedicated Schools Grant. Previous year's surpluses will be used first to address the overspend; however, if this is not sufficient (and it is predicted that it is not), the deficit will be carried forward as a deficit grant, so that DCC will effectively provide cash flow support for the overspend. This position is not viable in the long term.
- 4.3 It is an absolute priority that this situation is resolved through the creation, and delivery, of a robust recovery plan including the evaluation and mitigation of risk. The recovery of this situation as quickly as possible is within everyone's interest to protect future funding levels as we all move towards a

more sustainable future. The draft Recovery Plan is being produced, but will take time, and needs to coexist with the Development Plan (Appendix 1). More work is required around understanding the expected growth in pupils in receipt of an EHC Plan for 2017-18 and beyond, and the impact this would have on the HNB.

- 4.4 In addition, the HNB government funding allocation for 2017-18 is still being analysed and fully understood. This is the basis for the Recovery Plan. We are still finalising our places, and certain types of provision, for 2017-18. This also significantly impacts the Recovery Plan.

## 5 Possible financial control actions

- 5.1 Dorset County Council's responsibility in relation to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant is to manage and steward that funding on behalf of all Dorset's state-funded schools and children with higher levels of need. Inevitably this is a role that has to balance the tension between satisfactorily and fairly supporting the needs of any one individual or any one school in relation to the needs of others. The level of the HNB is set by the Government; it is the local authority's responsibility to ensure that it is not overspent, even though it is demand driven. Therefore there are a number of control actions to be considered:

- **Tipping Point** - This budget, designed to support schools who have received disproportionate numbers of students with SEN, could be cash limited for the rest of 2016-17 and for 2017-18 use the £400k to support the other SEN Top Up budgets (Dorset, OLEA and Exceptional).
- **Focus on High Cost Providers** - A focused renegotiation of costs across all the DCC placements should be able to achieve a better unit price for the high volumes of placements of all types that we purchase.
- **Focus on the Out of County budget** - To make sure resource is focused in the right area, we could reduce the Out of County budget to make the other budgets structurally sound and accommodate the planned growth.
- **Invest any new resources to save** - We need to be clear about how much leeway we have to invest the new post 16 funding and the continuation of the SEND reform grant, perhaps in better review capacity.
- **SEN Top Up** - We should move to a banding system for 2018-19, but for next year create a rate that balances.
- **Use of Capital** - At a time of low interest on capital, we need to review what opportunities there are to make local provision, particularly for those placements shared with social care and/or health as these would make the most savings.

## 6. Post 16 Placements and the Mental Capacity Act (MCA)

- 6.1 At the committee's meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, following discussion, the Chair requested details of how any mental capacity and deprivation of liberty issues were being addressed for post-16 students. A pilot Mental Capacity Act procedure for the Children's Service was put in place by the Children Who Are Disabled team last year



after the case law ruling that the deprivation of liberty of a 16-17 year old young person was deemed beyond the remit of parental responsibility, meaning that parents could no longer agree to such a placement on behalf of the young person if he or she were felt to lack capacity to make an informed decision. We are unaware that there is yet any statutory guidance on this matter setting out local authority duties in the light of the case law, so effectively Dorset County Children's Service is being proactive in anticipation of this.

- 6.2 Social care mandatory responsibilities relate to decisions to provide young people with accommodation where DCC is the 'decision-maker'. For health-related decisions the 'decision-maker' is a medical practitioner. It would usually be the responsibility of the decision-maker to identify whether the young person lacks capacity to consent and whether a decision needs to be made in partnership with them in their 'best interests'. This involves parents and professionals. If the proposed accommodation involves the deprivation of the young person's liberty then the capacity assessment and best interests decision needs to be made, following which an order from the Court of Protection should be sought. A young person is deemed to be deprived of their liberty if they are not 'free to leave' [the placement] and they are under 'constant supervision and control' by carers.
- 6.3 Legal advice on whether to prioritise children in care or children living at home with their parents has required further clarification, which is pending. The advice awaited relates to local authority responsibilities to young people who are deprived of liberty while living at home under parental care. This is sometimes the case where young people are judged to pose risk of harm to themselves or others, hitherto within the realm of parental responsibility.
- 6.4 All new cases go through the draft procedure and one case has so far reached the point of court application. There have been MCA general awareness workshops and in June there was a more comprehensive training day on deprivation of liberty issues for social workers. The plan is to develop this further as a rolling programme. All of the appropriate existing cases will have been reviewed by the end of May 2017. Thereafter, the draft procedure needs to be discussed with Adult Services, updated and put into place.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 In the relatively short period of time since the last meeting, the LA has consolidated the management of the whole SEND function, developed both strategic and tactical plans to reduce expenditure, and taken control actions which have reduced the increase in the volume of work and stripped out £600,000 of projected costs.
- 7.2 Since the groundbreaking court case about mental capacity of 16-18 year olds last year, in the absence of national guidance, a pilot procedure has been put in place and necessary review work is underway to be completed by the end of May 2017
- 7.3 There is of course much more to do, by both the LA and schools, to continue to improve SEN processes and provision, contain HNB expenditure within budget through a recovery plan and implement the full implications of the case law on mental capacity.



**SEND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN- SEPTEMBER 2016-SEPTEMBER 2019**

<b>SEND Strategic Priorities:</b>
* Great Provision close to home
* Early action for inclusion
* Excellent service delivery
* Value for money

<b>Long Term Outcomes/Deliverables</b>	<b>Key pieces of work/current action</b>	<b>Leads</b>	<b>Success Criteria/Performance Measures</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>RAG</b>
The processes and timescales for the identification, assessment and review of needs for children with SEND are met	Achieve statutory assessment timescales	Lanie Caines	100% statutory assessments completed within 20 weeks	Sep-17	All EHC assessments agreed since Sept 16 completed within 20 weeks.	G
	Complete transfer reviews. New transfer review paperwork and systems. Completed transfer review paperwork signed off.	Lanie Caines	100% transferred to EHCPs for YP in Special Schools or moving to a new education setting from Sept 2017.	Apr-17	Transfer review team data improving but still not meeting timelines due to volume to complete.	R
			100% statements of SEN transferred to EHCPs within timeframe set by DfE.	Apr-18	Data cleanse complete.	G
	Improve regular publication of SEND data to show number of CYP in categories of need, numbers of statements/EHCPs in EY/school/post 16/independent schools and colleges.	Lanie Caines/Steve Pitcher	Data published is used to inform business plan for HNB/SEN budget spend and to measure outcomes.	Dec-16	Proposal agreed at Schools Forum. Places mechanisms for April 2017 to be agreed.	A
Sufficient high quality school, special school and alternative provision for children with SEND is available locally and needs/outcomes are met	Alternative Provision Review – Learning Centres to have dual function as short stay/outreach provision for AP and as an SEMH base/delegation of top funding to schools.	Sylvie Lord/Jackie Groves/Gerri Kemp	Referral routes for short stay and outreach work embedded and schools understand process. SEMH base provision. Reduction in number of out of county placements for SEMH. SEN team data shows greater number of CYP returning to mainstream school following LC short stay placement.	Apr-19	Draft strategy being written.	A

SEMH strategy – expectations set out regarding inclusive approaches by universal through to specialist providers	Miriam Leigh	Strategy document agreed with stakeholders. Consistent practice at a universal level as reflected in auditing framework. Consultation/clinic sessions in place. Sufficient specialist places.	Apr-19	Draft in place.	A
SEND specialist CCN base provision timeline and implementation	SEND lead Commissioner	Timeline and action plan published. Dorchester CCN specialist base through provision operational. North and West specialist base provision for CCN operational. East CCN specialist base provision operational.	Dec-16 Sep-17 Oct-16		A
Special Schools Review Consultation and engagement Workstream development and Implementation.	Tatra Simpson	Meet local needs – Reduction in out of county placements. Wider needs addressed through local offer from special schools. Capacity building role to mainstream increased. Evidence of greater interagency working and joint commissioning.	Nov-16 Dec-16 Jan-17 Apr-17	Special School visits to HT complete. Workshops with specialist school and provision reps started.	A
Delivery plan finalised, commence implementation.	Tatra Simpson				
Early Help and support for CYP with learning disabilities whose behaviours challenge. Short breaks provision.	Tim Wells /Ed Kopecky	Parents and Carers of children who are disabled know who to ask for help and are easily able to access a range of support and suitable short break services. At home arrangements are sustainable and there is a reduction in the need for out of county specialist provision.	Jul-17	Agreement with specialist teams to attend ARs in these provisions from April 2017	A
Communication, participation and QA of Independent Schools, free schools, out of county provision, post 16 placements not in LA control but where Dorset CYP may be placed.	Gerri Kemp	Reduction in OOC specialist provision spend. Outcomes focused reviews. Easy access data to plan for future demand.	Apr-17		A

	Quality assurance approaches re inclusive provision for SEND in schools/settings Production and implementation of QA approach re effective inclusive provision.	Jackie Groves/Marie Harris	Schools/settings clear on expectations and standards re SEND provision and reflect this in their planning. School leaders/SENCOs see Inclusion and SEND as a priority in school development planning and demonstrate progress. VA data for vulnerable groups improving.	Apr-17	Action Plan agreed. Visits to schools/settings in progress.	A
	'The provision that the LA expects schools, early years and post 16 providers to be made available for SEND' document	Gerri Kemp/Jackie Groves	Stakeholders and service users recognise document as clear provision map for SEND	Apr-17	Document in draft	A
Support children, young people and parents to navigate local SEND arrangements and local SEND policies, service commissioning and delivery	Dorset's Local Offer Steering Group – action plan. Three sections of LO published online by Oct 16 with all sections completed by December 16.	Gerri Kemp/Tina Ironside	Feedback from users (parents/carers and young people) via website show increased confidence regarding navigation and accessibility of information	Dec-16	Information and Guidance sections published on Dorset for You	G
	Establishment of Communications Strategy	Michael Carhart-Harris	SEND related communication in its widest form is timely, transparent and accessible	Jul-17	CS communications strategy complete	G
	Participation and Engagement Person Centred Approaches The voice of the child/YP	Lindsey Howell/Deborah Gill		Jul-17	New workstream group agreed and terms of reference written	G
	Transition to adulthood	Claire Eveleigh	Feedback from users (parents/carers and young people) demonstrate increased confidence in the total transition processes between Children's and Adult Services.	Jul-17	Post 16 events for stakeholders held (Nov 16)	A

Establish an integrated 0-25 service for children and young people with SEND that will support excellent outcomes for CYP and their families	<b>0 to Adulthood steering group</b> - Design - Analytics - Person Centred approaches - Joint decision making panels	Jay Mercer (chair) Gerri Kemp Lee House Lindsey Howell Claire Eveleigh	Parental confidence measure. Speed of decision making increased. More efficient use of resources. Reduction in number of out of county place CYP see positive difference in the services and support they receive.ments made.	Apr-19	Monthly 0-Adulthood steering group established across CS and AS and PID written. Subgroups established and ToR written.	G
Prepare for Local Area SEND inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish steering group</li> <li>• Nominate business steer</li> <li>• Consult with stakeholders</li> <li>• Joint plan with CCG</li> <li>• Identify successes and gaps</li> <li>• Prepare action plan</li> </ul>	Gerri Kemp Graham Albertella	Readiness and confidence increased across services, schools and settings. Parents and YP engaged in process. Evidence collated.	Mar-17	Data collection and Audit in progress. Meetings with internal partners complete.	A
Reduce the cost of high needs funded specialist placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data cleanse to ensure accurate reflexion of HNB investment</li> <li>• Contracts review to consider value for money</li> <li>• Review of individual cases that are the highest cost including LA presence at annual review meetings</li> <li>• Review and enhance short term preventative high needs packages of support from specialist SEND services prior to statutory process</li> </ul>	Lanie Caines/Gerri Kemp/Gary Binstead	Total cost of specialist placement reduced Specialist short term packages in place and demonstrating good outcomes. Keeping support for complex needs local	Jul-17	HNB Budget Sufficiency Group established. Action Plan written.	A

**Action Plan re HNB sufficiency group (controls on expenditure activity)**

Outcome	Objective/Activity	Lead	By When	Success Measure	Progress Update	RAG
Individual high cost specialist placements are reviewed, judged to be effective and deliver the identified outcomes for the child/young person.	Annual reviews for high cost placements are attended by local authority officers. Complex case panel established with multi-agency advisers to review and agree high cost places. Desk review to identify most expensive placements. Local alternative provision is considered. Where there is significant health or social care needs, shared cost placements will be agreed at JCP.	Lanie Caines	Apr-17	All high cost placements are deemed still appropriate at AR and costs reviewed. The most expensive placements are agreed and responsibilities shared at a multiagency level. Reduction in number of high cost placements long term.	Complex panel attendees identified and terms of reference written.  Desk review not yet complete.	A
	All SEND panel decisions signed off by Leadership team within 24 hours.				Assistant Director/SMT Line of authority for sign off in place re panel decision making.	G
Synergy system used for more effective forecasting.  Data held by SEN Assessment team regarding total cost of specialist placements is accurate.	Ensure that current package costs reflect current contracts and that Synergy reports are accurate and useful. Carry out data cleanse to ensure current commitments are accurately reflected in budget totals.	Steve Pitcher	Dec-16	Current forecast outturn reduces for year end.	Data cleanse completed Nov 2016. £600K reduction in identified costs.	G
Contracts Review meetings evidence value for money regarding provider and quality of provision	Re-establish Contract Review meetings. Report to SEND Board regarding activity and QA.	Gary Binstead	Jan-17	Specialist placement budget spend is reduced.	Contract review meetings are taking place, and we are developing further monitoring with the service.	A
	Provision map drawn up re local services offer so that commissioning team know alternatives to private contracts/providers.	Julie Oliver	Jan-17		Initial meeting between SEND and commissioning completed and provision map format agreed.	A

High needs funding for short term specialist packages of support from specialist services are reviewed re impact and are used prior to statutory assessment for those in mainstream provision with the greatest needs	Focus group of specialist SEN services established.	Gerri Kemp/Lanie Caines	Nov-16	Specialist SEN services are commissioned promptly to meet urgent need so as to prevent specialist provision and ensure inclusion close to home. Schools/settings/families receive high quality support in order to meet need.	Focus group established	G
	Business case written and costed.		Nov-16		Business plan written	
	Processes agreed.		Dec-16		Processes agreed with agencies.	
	Pilot carried out with three cases and reviewed.		Mar-17			
	Establish approach.		Apr-17			
The Specialist Provision Review Strategy is a key strategic tool to address imbalances in the provision network, ensures better outcomes and value for money.	CCN: Dorchester through provision agreed and in place for Sept 2017.	Tatra Simpson/Rachel Harris/Gerri Kemp	Dec-16	Panel placements agreed. Contracts signed. Capacity build completed.	Dorchester Schools	G
	School visits completed (potential base provision sites) for west/ north and east and initial agreements made for Sept 2018		Dec-16	Agreements on site of new CCN provision in place.	Five schools visits completed- further visits in January	A
	Timeline and position statement to partners and parents published.		End Dec16	All stakeholders aware and understand strategy in place.	Training in progress	G
					Statement being prepared for December publication	A



