



October/November 2021

## PROGRAMME UPDATE

*Keeping stakeholders, parents and carers informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme.*

### **2) DfE SEND Deep Dive Workshops**

As you may be aware, we have fourteen areas of weakness that were identified in the 2019 SEND Local Area inspection and we are making good progress in delivering the actions and outcomes we committed to in our Written Statement of Action (WSOA) response. As part of the support offered by the Department for Education (DfE) we have been working with them in the form of four SEND Deep Dive Workshops that have focused on each of the fourteen priority areas. The aim of the Deep Dives is to support us in evaluating where we are in our journey from the inspection findings of May 2019 against the identified priorities. They have explored:

- What was said in 2019 inspection findings letter?
- What was planned in WSoA/done?
- What has changed?
- Where is the evidence of impact ?.

There has been partnership wide involvement in the sessions with representation from the Local Authority, Parent Carer Forum, Health, Schools and Social Care involved in providing evidence of the specific actions we have been taking across the Local Area and the positive impacts these have had on the ground. They have also highlighted areas where we need to do more and do better and these have been added to the various improvement working groups agendas to deliver against.

The first session was held near the end of July, the second last month and two further sessions to be held in December this year and February next year. Please see below for the full schedule of Deep Dives for the priority areas identified at the 2019 inspection:

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Area 9.** - The published local offer is poor. It is underused and difficult to navigate.  
**Area 13.** - There is a lack of local provision post-19 for young people with the most complex needs.  
**Area 14.** - Too few young people with SEND progress into employment.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Area 2.** - The needs of CYP with SEND have not been accurately identified or moderated over time.  
**Area 3.** - A strategic approach to assessment and provision management in Dudley is lacking.  
**Area 4.** - Joint Commissioning is underdeveloped and not always informed by accurate analysis of data.  
**Area 10.** - EHC plans are often of a poor quality, they do not all contain Health & Social Care needs and are not outcome-focused.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Area 1.** - Improvement Strategies are not embedded and they have not had a marked impact on improved outcomes.  
**Area 5.** - The DMO has insufficient capacity to promote the SEND agenda across health providers.  
**Area 6.** - Co- Production with Parents is weak. Co-production at a wider strategic level is underdeveloped.  
**Area 7.** - There is a great deal of parental dissatisfaction. The passion and commitment of the various parent groups has not been harnessed. Many parents feel disengaged with the system.

#### Early February 2022

**Area 8.** - There is a lack of understanding about Community inclusion in Dudley. The local area needs to change the culture and develop stakeholder confidence in the system.  
**Area 11.** - Pupils with SEND make slower progress than other pupils.  
**Area 12.** - Pupils with SEND have higher absence and exclusion rates than other pupils.

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