

WSoA Review and Stocktake November 2021



Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR **PAST** OUR **PRESENT** AND FOR OUR **FUTURE**

About Re-Inspection

Following the SEND Inspection in February 2019, Walsall was directed to implement a Written Statement of Action (WSoA).

So far there have been 117 Local Areas inspected, of these, 60 (51.3%) have been instructed to implement a WSoA.

All Local Areas that are instructed to develop a Written Statement of Action will undergo a re-inspection. This is usually within two years, however due to the pandemic, there have been some delays in the programme.

Earlier on in the year, we began prepping for a SEN Assurance visit which would have had a focus on our response for parents of SEND during the Covid-19 pandemic, and this is not now likely to happen. In re-inspections, the focus is on the Areas of Concern that were raised in the outcome of the inspection.

This document outlines a summary of our achievements against each Area of Concern and what still needs to be done – at the moment, this is high level and over the coming weeks and months, the workstream leads will be working together to build on this picture and ensure that we have evidence prepared and available for the re-inspection.

Although it is not set in stone, SEND re-inspections are broadly done in the order of the original SEND inspections. There are 19 Local Areas that are awaiting re-inspection who were originally inspected before Walsall. We do not know exactly when we will be re-inspected, but there it is likely to be early 2022.

Evidencing our progress and outcomes

This document has been pulled together to support our journey in being able to evidence what we have achieved and the outcomes and difference it has made to children, young people and families. The headings in this document are taken from a template provided by Walsall's DfE Advisor Pat Tate which is the recommended format for outlining progress and which used to write the update report.

This is a working document which will continue to be updated as we prepare for the re-inspection.

WSoA Stocktake

Following previous attempts to document progress against the Written Statement of Action and identify impacts and outcomes, there was some concern that it was proving difficult to provide evidence of where activities had taken place. This issue was discussed in detail at the September LAIB.

As a result, a 'stocktake' has been undertaken of the actions in the Written Statement of Action to determine an accurate picture of where we are. This involved methodically looking at each individual action and it's previous RAG rating to determine whether the RAG rating was correct. This has resulted in some movement, where some actions that were previously being marked as 'Completed and Embedded' changed to 'Completed' or even still 'In Progress' and some completed actions being changed to 'In Progress' where it was deemed that there was not sufficient evidence to justify the previous status. Similarly, some actions that were shown to still be outstanding have now been marked as 'Complete' or 'Complete and Embedded'.

The stocktake identified a number of issues, including the overly ambitious timescales of some of the original actions as well as a number of duplications across areas of concern. As all of the original timescales have now passed, all outstanding actions are 'Beyond Milestone', however, as progress is being made in all areas, going forward these actions will be shown as 'In Progress'. All outstanding actions will be reported monthly to the board in terms of ongoing progress.

What is clear from the stocktake is that while the vast majority of actions – 81% or 149 out of 184 – are completed and that there is evidence of that completion in the form of documentation. There are currently 35 actions outstanding and these are summarised within their focus areas on slides 6 and 7.

Not Started	Beyond Milestone	Delayed	Paused - Covid Exception	In Progress	Complete	Complete and Embedded	Closed	
0	0	0	0	35	65	75	9	Current Action RAG Ratings - Following Stocktake
Not Started	Beyond Milestone	Delayed	Paused - Covid Exception	In Progress	Complete	Complete and Embedded	Closed	
0	24	4	5	2	76	66	7	Previous Period Action RAG Ratings

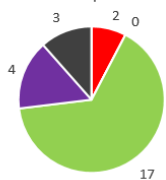
What is less clear in some cases is the **evidence of impact** for children, young people, parents and carers. We are therefore requesting that all partners thoroughly review the areas of concern that they have completed actions within and provide any evidence of impact which is not already included and which may not have previously been shared with the LAIB or via Workstream Leads.

WSoA Stocktake – following stocktake

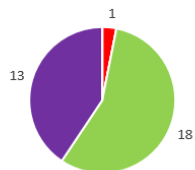
Key
Closed, Completed and Embedded,
Completed, In Progress, Paused, Delayed,
Beyond Milestone

Previous Position

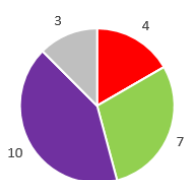
AOC1 - Co-production



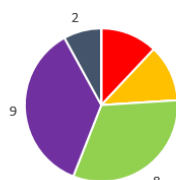
AOC2 - EHC Plans



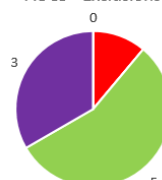
AOC3 - Outcomes



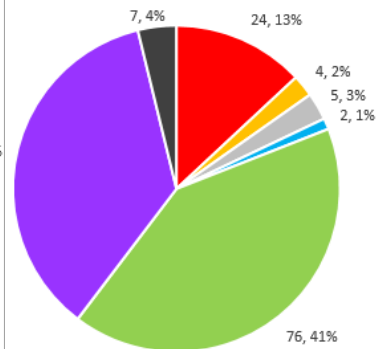
AOC4 - Autism



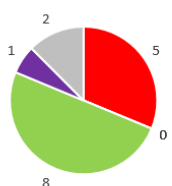
AOC5 - Exclusions



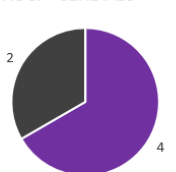
66, 36%



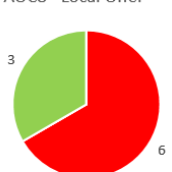
AOC6 - CME



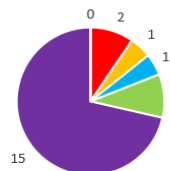
AOC7 - SENDIASS



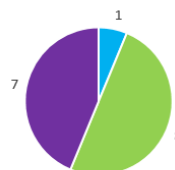
AOC8 - Local Offer



AOC9 - Joint Commissioning

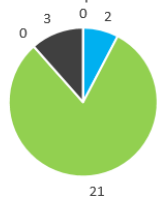


AOC10 - Governance

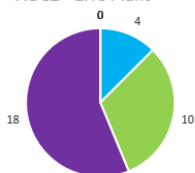


Following Stocktake

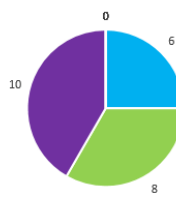
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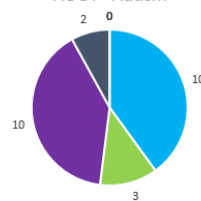
AOC2 - EHC Plans



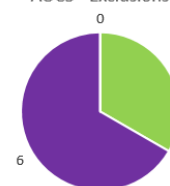
AOC3 - Outcomes



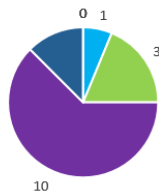
AOC4 - Autism



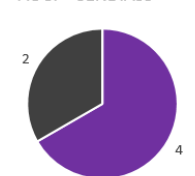
AOC5 - Exclusions



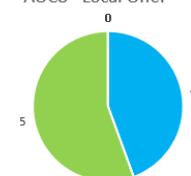
AOC6 - CME



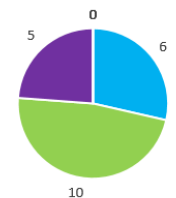
AOC7 - SENDIASS



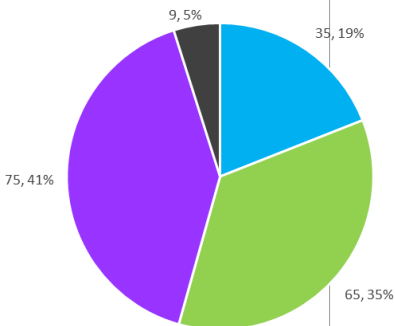
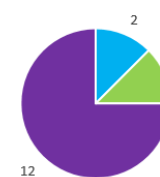
AOC8 - Local Offer



AOC9 - Joint Commissioning



AOC10 - Governance



WSoA Stocktake – Additionality

As the stocktake was underway, what became clear was that as well as the actions within the statement of action itself, there was also a significant amount of additional activity which has taken place which was not included in the original action plan. Where relevant, this has been woven through and added into the 'key components of change' within the relevant areas of concern.

It is important that we continue to ensure that all additional activity is captured as part of our inspection preparation, so partners are requested to ensure that any additional activity that may not have already been picked up is included going forwards.

Additional activity identified includes:

- Covid support including risk assessments for children with an EHCP and monitoring of keeping in touch.
- Support for education staff throughout Covid including the Headspace programme
- Introduction of the SEMH and Behaviour Frameworks (see AOC5)
- Significant amounts of training opportunities (a training summary is currently being produced)
- The development of the Shadow Board
- Recruitment of Emotional and Literacy support workers to work with parents and children who are EHE
- Holiday Home and Food Scheme (HAF)
- Health review and merger (which was not planned at the point the WSoA was submitted)

WSoA Stocktake – Outstanding actions

Area of Concern	Focus Area	Update on outstanding actions
AOC1 – Co-production and Engagement	2. Network of locality based SEND ambassadors available to support all parents/carers of vulnerable children and young people.	Outstanding action relates to locality working. Some work around this has been undertaken, but it is too soon for this to have been completed. Locality work has been developed across children's services and the partnership - this is an in depth and ongoing piece of work which is the introduction of a new way of working and service delivery. Original timescales were too ambitious for mirroring this with parents and carers as the ways of working professionally needed to be established and embedded. As locality working continues to embed we are now starting to have the conversations with parents and carers about how this locality model can be rolled out to how we work with them.
	4. Young people and parents/carers feel listened to and supported through the EHCP assessment and review process	Annual survey is in place, but regular feedback mechanism needs to be established.
AOC2 – EHC Assessment Process	10. Annual Reviews are completed in a timely way and in line with the SEND Code of Practice	Annual review backlog continues to be worked through.
	13. Single health record.	This is part of a wider piece of work which is ongoing across health – it is a multi-year project
	14. One central CAMHS email address for EHCP advice to ensure management oversight of the quantity and quality of advice.	A central email address exists. The outstanding action is in relation to the level of quality assurance being undertaken by CAMHS in relation to the advices provided.
AOC3 – Improving Outcomes	17. Children and young people with specific literacy difficulties/dyslexia have their needs identified in a timely way and receive appropriate support. (4 actions)	Some of this work is part of the SEND specialist provision review. Some of it is believed to have been completed, but evidence is being sought.
	19. The quality and accessibility of Post 16 provision enables learners to achieve level two and three qualifications.	The final action in relation to this is about raising attainment – it is not currently possible to assess outcomes due to the pause in assessments.
	20. SENCOs accurately report SEND information on the school census.	It is understood that work has been done with SENCOs in relation to data accuracy but evidence is being sought.

WSoA Stocktake – Outstanding actions

Area of Concern	Focus Area	Update on outstanding actions
AOC4 - Autism	22. Autism outreach services available to parents, carers and children and young people (3 actions)	There is a pilot currently underway in relation to this work.
	23. Appropriate educational provision is available in Walsall for children and young people with Autism.(3 actions)	This action is part of the SEND Specialist Provision review which is ongoing
	25. The work of the Autism Working Group has impact across Walsall. (4 actions)	Autism working group development was paused due to Covid – now picking up pace again.
AOC6 - CME	29. A significant reduction in the number of Children Missing Education, across Walsall.	Most actions in this area have been completed. There is one outstanding action in relation to implementing QA processes.
AOC8 – Local Offer	33. Local Offer fit for purpose in line with the Code of Practice.	Outstanding action relates to ensuring that providers can update their information on the directory.
	34. An effective transition protocol for children and young people 14+ years (3 actions)	Work is ongoing on developing the transition protocol and toolkit – update due to a future board.
AOC 9 – Joint Commissioning	35. A Walsall wide joint commissioning agreement is in place. (2 actions)	Outstanding actions relate to formally signing off the MOU and evidencing the use of data to inform commissioning intentions
	36. Improved transition experience for children and young people aged 17 into adulthood. (3 actions)	Actions relate to ensuring transition protocols are in place via health pathways. Some of this work has been completed and evidence is being sought.
	38. Change to Healthcare Trust electronic records increases information sharing.	This is a long term, ongoing project. An update is being sought from the Project Lead.
AOC10 - Governance	43. Leadership oversight is strong and ensures compliance with the Code of Practice.	Outstanding action in relation to CPD for Board Members.
	44. Respective partners governance and accountability arrangements for SEND (0-25) are embedded and ensure strategic ownership and oversight	Agreed Walsall Learning Alliance model to be implemented and embedded, alongside LAIB until Walsall is deemed to be making sufficient progress against the areas for concern outlined in the statement of action.