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| **Yorkshire and Humber Change Programme Partnership (CPP) Highlight Report** | |
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| **Date of Report:** | 31st May 2024 |
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| **Reporting period:** | 30/04/2024 – 31/05/2024 |
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| **CPP Context & Background** |
| The DfE are committed to testing, refining and developing the most significant reforms to ensure they get the changes right via a Change Programme. Testing will take place in up to nine Change Programme Partnerships (CPP) each made up of three to four local authorities and their partners. The DfE shortlisted up to three local authorities per region and invited them to express an interest in leading the CPP in each region. Wakefield is the lead LA in the Yorkshire and Humber CPP working with Bradford, Calderdale and Leeds.  The national delivery partner, The Reaching Excellence and Ambition for all Children (REACh) consortium, led by PA Consulting in partnership with the Council for Disabled Children, Olive Academies and IMPOWER are supporting the DfE and our CPP with delivery of a two-year programme to implement, test and refine reforms introduced by the Improvement Plan.  Some of the key areas the CPP will be working on are: Development of a CPP Steering Group, completing a Strategic Delivery Plan, testing National and Local Inclusion Dashboards, setting up/amending SEND & AP Local Area Partnerships, developing Local Area Inclusion Plans (LAIP), using a benchmarking tool for strategic planning for SEND and AP, testing of a National EHCP template, multi-agency panels, AP Reform (3-Tier Model), National Standards, Bands and Tariffs, Advisory Tailored Lists and Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC).  The Department for Education have appointed ICF Consulting Services, an independent public policy and research consultancy, to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the SEND & AP Change Programme.  During the lead up to the general election the operational testing via the Change Programme will continue, however some future plans and sharing learning will be deferred until after the election. |
| **Progress Updates Since the Last Highlight Report** |
| * To support the overall work of the Y&H CPP and enable more focused discussions an in-person session was held with leads and WY ICB and was led by REACh and DfE. * A Business Case template was agreed to ensure robust governance remains in place for the distribution of funding against testing reforms in each of the local areas. A panel has also been established to assess the business cases and this will come together in June. * In addition to Y&H CPP existing monthly progress reporting the DfE have now introduced a monthly Local Area Reform testing report to more formally track progress back to the department. * All CPP areas are continuing to use new EHCP template for new and amended plans, collecting feedback and reporting back to DfE policy leads. Feedback sessions with families around EHC plans will be adapted to increase participation. * Meeting with DfE, REACh and LA leads to discuss progress and focus on Advisory Tailored Lists with the DfE policy lead. * Further planning re the PINS project with Yorkshire and Humber around neurodiversity and inclusion in mainstream school. * Working with mediation providers to strengthen action plans for dispute resolution and changed data collection around dispute resolution to support strengthening this area.   + Further work and engagement with parents and carers including producing a leaflet about the Change Programme which was shared with parents, carers and young people at a Local Offer Live Event on the 8 of May. This was also shared with Y&H CPP colleagues for them to adapt and use in their local areas if appropriate. * Updated communications continue to be published on Local Offer (parents and professionals) and on Traded Services Websites in some areas (for settings). * Regular updates provided to Parent Carer Forums. * Ongoing work across CPP to review and feedback on the inclusion data dashboard. * Progress has been made on the multi-agency panels and planning for the 3 tier AP model. * WY ICB complex needs and SEND group supporting the development of a quality assurance toolkit and framework to support health advice for EHCP’s – awaiting version to share across WY, this will be aligned to the new advice templates. * Supporting discussions for community of practice for ELSEC via NHSE – ELSEC pathfinder network meeting established. * ELSEC evaluation workshop hosted by evaluation partner – focus on mission statement, service pathway and theory of change. * Spotlight on ELSEC arranged for next CPP meeting. |
| **Details of Meetings/Workshops/Task and Finish Groups in this Period** |
| * **Steering Group**   Steering Group convened virtually on 20.05.24 and now has an established membership representative of areas in scope for programme. The agenda consisted of:   * Welcome and Introductions * **Progress update as a CPP and against the reform areas** * **What’s coming up next?** * Neuro-divergence in schools * Further updates * Standing Items (ELSEC / Finance / Young People voice) * CPP Communications   **Previous Steering Group meeting dates in 2024**   * 23 January 2024 * 26 February 2024 * 29 April 2024   **Weekly meeting with Wakefield lead contacts, DfE & REACh as required, this period:**   * 03 May 2024 * 10 May 2024 * 17 May 2024   **Y&H Leads in-person session with DfE & REACh**   * 23 May 2024   **CPP information sessions delivered by DfE Policy Teams and REACh**   * Communicating with key stakeholders 29.02.24 * Bands & Tariffs 29.02.24 & 07.03.24 * Features of an effective partnership 16.04.24 * Visioning for an effective AP system 18.04.24 * National Standards Info session 16.05.24 * Power and purpose of practice led OAP framework 01.05.24 * Ways of working for a successful AP model 02.05.24 * Commissioning for quality in AP 15.05.24 * Feedback loops established on each of the reforms running until July 2024 |
| **Programme Planned Activities for Next Month** |
| * Continuation of use of EHCP template across CPP to enable testing. Progress tracking taking place in each of the areas. On-going work to develop EHCP panels and arrangements. * Continued ongoing local CPP communications ensuring these are linked across the CPP to ensure consistent messaging and informed by information from our CPP and the DfE and REACh. * Steering groups set up to run monthly throughout 2024. * National evaluator undertaking research, interviews and surveys through May and June 2024. Next focus is on EHCP template. * REACh information sessions   + Strengthening multi-agency panels webinar 11.06.24 * Monthly progress reports from each area detailing progress against the reform testing, and monthly online reports are now submitted to the DfE. * Bradford to continue ELSEC work and feed updates into CPP meetings as required as well as reporting to DfE. Focus on ELSEC at CPP core meeting on 24th June. * Consultation on “Strengthening Protections in Unregistered Alternative Provision” is underway. This consultation builds on the findings from DfE previous Call for Evidence “Understanding the use of unregistered alternative provision”. Consultation closes 5th July and is being shared across relevant networks. * Submission of business cases for funding to undertake further testing. Panels set up for end June to assess these. * Sharing learning from Bradford ‘Connecting Data’ project when available. * Creating links with the Yorkshire and Humber Youth Unit to ensure the voice of young people shapes the CPP programme. * Review the LAIP and strengthen where necessary following past 5 months of progress since submission. * Testing of the Advisory Tailored List. * Due to being in Pre-Election period some activities have been postponed. * Planning for a young persons session. |
| **Key Learning** |
| * Partnerships have been strengthened in local areas across the CPP following the clarity of who should be involved. * Communication remains key, certainly given the amount of work to be undertaken and the number of different ‘asks’ there is risk to people not being able to act on requests by the deadlines given. * Roadmap and clear summarised list of upcoming ‘asks’ of CPP remains key to ensuring all local areas are able to plan for what is coming up. * The need for a co-production mindset and earlier involvement of partners in the work being undertaken. * Progress reporting is useful for providing internal updates within and across local areas working on the CPP. This information also keeps SEND boards informed. * Regular meetings in each area help ensure Parent Carer Forum are fully briefed. The benefits of this are being felt. * ELSEC pathfinders network and evaluation workshop hosted by evaluation partner (REACh). |
| **Risks, Barriers and Challenges** |
| * There is an on-going challenge to balance priorities and commitment across the CPP, mitigations are in place to support through specific task and finish groups and having delegated ownership to drive progress. * Challenge to ensure the work is effectively co-produced given some of the timescales and differing priorities in each local area. * The impact of wider challenges in the SEND system is hindering CPP progress in some CPP areas. * Concerns regarding some aspects of expected delivery which are not funded for example AP ST. |

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