

## WESTMORLAND & FURNESS SEND PARTNERSHIP

### Minutes of Meeting

#### SEND Partnership Board

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Time: 10:00 – 12:00

**Present:** Mil Vasic, Isobel Booler, Steve Hatton, Julia Dean, Catherine Prince, Vanessa Wilson, Jilly Russell, Helen Keaveny, Sarah Powell, Linda Burgess, Ann Breeze, Lorraine Rudd Williams, Lauren Jackson, Peter Chapman, Julie Jones, Andi Henderson, Marie Barnes, Jason Habbershon, Ali McCullogh, Sarah Roscoe, Matt Hardwick, Janet Doherty, Elaine Croll, Lisa Strange (Items 1-3 only), Cllr Janet Battye, Katrina Raine, Vicky Hepworth-Putt, Lisa Balderstone, Fran Davis (Item 8 only), Gemma Woodburn (minutes) Louise Haymer (DfE)

**Apologies:** Amy Holliman, Holly Murphy, Jacquie Shenton, Georgina Grant, Andrew Horrabin

	Agenda Item	Notes
1.	Welcome and Apologies	Mil Vasic welcomed all to the meeting, apologies listed above were noted and accepted.
2.	Updates and Actions	Minutes confirmed from 31-3-25 Actions from 31-3-25 – this had been updated prior to the meeting with either updated status of the action, or a note that this action was on today's agenda – please see accompanying Action Tracker
3.	PINS Project – Update, Impact and Next Steps	The PINS Project has been undertaken by 4 primary schools in W&F this academic year. Julia Dean gave a background of the project and data behind it, as well as an overview of how it works. First hand impact/updates were then provided by Lisa Strange (HT/SENDCo Staveley School) and Jilly

		<p>Russell (SENDAC). Additional information was shared with the board, and this will be circulated following the meeting.</p> <p>Mil – good to hear from different perspectives. Consider how could you capture before/after and the impact it has had to help this year’s school’s see the benefits?</p> <p>Various board members asked questions to further develop their understanding of the project, and both Lisa and Jilly have offered to meet individuals to discuss this further. This presentation will also be shared at the SENDCo networks to provide this update to schools, and the team are identifying schools for this year’s project, and these will be chosen through schools expressing an interest, but also thinking of the impact this project will have and how they will network and impact on other schools through this project.</p>
4.	Ofsted Report & SEND Improvement Plan	<p>IB &amp; MV – discussed the Ofsted report and how pleased they were. Discussed the four areas of recommendation by Ofsted and how they will feed into the wider improvement plan.</p> <p>We have 35 days to publish our own improvement plan, there were 9 overall priorities (inc. four Ofsted recommendations). As we are very keen to publish high quality around the improvement, we’ve been focusing on completing the plan for the four improvement areas from the inspection, and we will then rework through the other five other areas for improvement.</p> <p>SH – this is nearly ready for signing off which will then be shared with the wider team, ensuring publication by 27-5-25.</p>
5.	Feedback from SENDAC Parent/Carer Forum (inc. Conference Update)	<p>Apologies received from Georgina Grant, but Isobel Booter gave a brief update on some of SENDAC’s ongoing work.</p> <p>IB – SENDAC are working towards doing an annual conference and engagement sessions. We are going to put this in monthly. Parents have voiced what they would like help with and what they would like to see.</p>
6.	Data Update: (a) <i>New Partnership Performance report format</i>	<p>JH – shared findings from the data collected.</p> <p>Also shared and discussed SEND Partnership Board Highlights Report.</p> <p>Data from health is very intermittent as there has been a very limited response this quarter.</p>

	<p><i>(b) Tribunal and Mediations deep dive</i></p>	<p>HK – asked if JH had a contact for LSCFT? Jason does but doesn't seem to get a reply. HK will speak to him separately and get that sorted.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> JH to pick up availability outside of the meeting with Helen Keaveny and Katie Raine</p> <p>Exclusions and suspensions are both up compared to last year. This is a significant concern and it needs to be looked into and how we can meet needs. PEX cases are up on last year.</p> <p>LB - Would be interested in looking at the PEX data with someone and the SEND aspect of these</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> MB to speak to Sarah Wright about arranging this.</p> <p>Attendance is good generally. Home Ed and part time timetables are increasing – continue to monitor this.</p> <p>At the last partnership board, the intention was shared about how we are going to develop a dashboard for EHCP Annual Reviews. Jason then shared his data and how this works, what it shows and how it can support the team.</p> <p>Colleagues thanked Jason for this work as it will be helpful.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Health Updates</p>	<p>PC – Meeting with commissioners around speech and language and what we would like to offer.</p> <p>EHCP process - there is some work being done through the digital teams around improving how we digitise some of these solutions.</p> <p>Meeting later this week with North East and North Cumbria colleagues to do some joint commissioning.</p> <p>VW – Big changes within NHS. Within the next 18 months NHS is merging with NHS England. ICB's must reduce their running costs significantly.</p> <p>The good news around SEND at the moment, there are no changes to our statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>There will be significant change within the NHS board in the next 6 months, and VW asked colleagues to be mindful of this in coming months.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>EHCP Update <i>(a) Panels and processes</i></p>	<p>FD – discussed panel structure - for consideration today is an amalgamation of those two statutory panels. So there actually is 1 panel once a week.</p>

	(b) <i>Quality Assurance of EHCPs</i>	<p>Going forward, she would like to look at quality assurance, education, health and care plans as a multi-agency group within panels, to ensure this happens on a more frequent level. Fran is working with health colleagues to look at how they can support with this remotely.</p> <p>IB – welcomed the proposal and shared that the two panels are already streamlined from where we were. I think that streamlining further and having that clear oversight of all the decision making is welcome as we are always trying to improve.</p> <p>EHCP quality assurance document is the operational level of our QA activity to improve the quality of our education, health and care plans, both new and amended. Guidance document - is guidance and information on how to write good quality advice towards an educational health and care plan.</p> <p>All approved the proposals/frameworks and confirmed they can be shared wider.</p>
9.	Local Offer Project	<p>JD – working with IB and CP on helping to work the local offer into becoming a more effective tool. Everything that is in the report, you will see highlights of within the development plan.</p> <p>Feedback is that it's still not where it needs to be in terms of both the services available and how they're reflected on the website. This is an ongoing area of work, which again links in with the wider SEND Improvement Plan.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> To provide future updates to the board on how this work is progressing.</p>
10.	Forward Planning	Lorna Jones to provide information on engagement work with CYP.