

BOB ICB BOARD MEETING

Title	Patient Story – Parents’ experience of SEND services in Wokingham		
Paper Date:	03 September 2024	Meeting Date:	17 September 2024
Purpose:	Information	Agenda Item:	06
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Executive Summary

A child or young person has special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support, we shorten this to SEND.

The SEND Code of Practice 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 gives guidance to health and social care, education and local authorities to make sure that children and young people with SEND are properly supported. (Source: NHS England website which can be found [here](#)).

The Integrated Care System (ICS), led by the Integrated Care Board (ICB), has an active SEND programme, working with services across local authority (LA) footprints, to co-produce SEND delivery plans, working across the entire system where this will bring benefit, as well as ensuring that local demand is met by the local services.

SEND services fit into the BOB joint forward plan “Start Well”

BOB’s five year ambition is to narrow the early years development and school readiness gap between the most and least deprived areas in each place ensuring that all children get the best start in life and are able to get the greatest benefit from their education. Our approach will strengthen the partnerships between providers and services to identify and support children with different developmental needs. Our delivery focus will:

- Review the collection and sharing of data relating to early years development to support the right information being available to identify areas of inequality where intervention may be needed.
- Ensure closer collaboration with LA and other system partners, providing a support offer for families living in the most deprived areas, maximising uptake of funded early education placements and availability of parenting programmes and family support services.
- Work with partners to establish an appropriate system-wide children and young people oversight and assurance of services covering the 0-19 years.

Our families and carers are integral partners in the development of services, and it is very important that we work with them closely.

A local parent in the Wokingham area has extensive experience of local SEND services, and will be attending the Board to share that experience, focusing on her overall reflections, but also about the process of transitioning from children’s to adult services and access to post 16 education.

A key partner in Wokingham is **SEND Voices Wokingham** - the independent voice of families, representing their experiences with the aim to improve lives.

This is a Parent Carer Forum which is a formal group of parent carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) who work with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to make sure that the services they commission, plan and deliver meet the needs of SEND children and families in their area.

SEND Voices Wokingham offers representation, signposting, events, training and information. They ensure that parent views are collected and shared anonymously with key representatives

in health, education and social care in the Wokingham Borough, to help improve SEND services now and shape them in the future.

Terri Walsh, the CEO of SEND Voices Wokingham, is unable to attend the Board meeting, but has shared the newly published 2024 annual survey [Annual SEND Survey 2024](#) which summarises the views of 294 parents and carers from Wokingham Borough.

[Parent Carer Forum for Wokingham Borough | SEND Voices Wokingham](#)

Action Required

The Board are asked to:

- Listen to the voice and lived experience of a parent who has navigated the SEND services with their child as they grow up and the challenges in transitioning into the adult services.
- Reflect on the challenges faced by families where there is a young person with a special educational need, and the importance of parent forums not only to support them, but to represent their views locally and nationally.

Conflicts of Interest:

Not applicable

**Date/Name of Committee/
Meeting, Where Last Reviewed:**

Not applicable