



Surrey Children's Service – Services for Children with Special Needs

Local Committee for Woking 1 March 2004

KEY ISSUE:

This report details and describes the educational support services for children and schools including the Multi-Professional Teams (one of which covers the North West area). The work of the Physical and Sensory Support Service and the Traveller Education Support Service (both county-wide services) is described in appendices.

SUMMARY:

This report focuses on educational support services to children and schools: the report sets out the further developments of the area Multi-Professional Teams, and the Physical and Sensory Support Service and the Traveller Education Support Service.

Data is provided on a district/borough basis and comparative data is also presented.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee for Woking should:

- (i) Provide comment and feedback on the contents of the report and the operation of the service
- (ii) Comment on the information in the report and how future reports might be presented.

Introduction and background

1. Education Children's Services and Social Services for Children were integrated in 2002 to form Surrey Children's Service. The rationale for this integration and developing Multi-Professional Teams (MPTs) is to provide schools, children and families with a more efficient service through more integrated and effective multi-agency working.
2. There are four area Multi-Professional Teams (MPTs) and each area is led by a Multi-Professional Team Manager (MPTM), who in turn is line managed by an Area Manager who has both education and social care management responsibilities.
3. This new structure provides a tighter and more co-ordinated service for schools, children and families. Close working with schools has ensured a service that is effective in meeting need.
4. Developments since last Report
 - The existing budgets under the previous service structure were transferred to the areas in April 2003, allowing for greater flexibility in the use of resources.
 - The MPTs became fully operational in September 2003, with the formation of Multi-Professional Locality Teams serving groups of schools within each of the four areas.
 - A Local Partnership Board has been established.
 - Links beginning to be established between Multi Professional Locality Teams, health visitors, school nurses, Primary Mental Health Workers and Connexions.
 - North West pilot for Integrated Referral and Assessment
5. Improvements
 - Increased understanding of roles and systems between 'old services'.
 - Effective planning between MPTs and schools enabling prioritisation of work and stopping duplication of support.
 - Difficult 'stuck' cases successfully moved forward through effective multi-professional planning and working.
 - More collaborative working, leading to more effective preventative working.
 - Faster response to schools and faster decision making to ensure children's needs are met as quickly as possible.
 - Improved Special Educational Needs (SEN) processes for schools in terms of admissions and support.

Analysis and commentary

6. In the North West area of Surrey the MPT is organised into five locality teams, a Special Educational Needs Administration Team and the Education Other than at School Team. Each locality team is co-ordinated by a senior lead professional who is the first point of contact for the group of schools served by the team when they need support for complex cases (see Appendix 1 for MPT structure chart). In April the Children with Disabilities (CWD) Team will also join the MPT.
7. The MPTs work with school staff, parents and children to ensure that the needs of all children including children with special needs are met (see Appendix 2 for a full description of the role and responsibilities of each professional group within the MPT).
8. In Woking borough there are 33,662 children on roll at Woking schools. Of those, the special educational needs analysis identifies 1,026 pupils at school action, 587 pupils at school action plus and 376 pupils have a statement. Some of those children on the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice will be within mainstream schools and some of those with statements will be within special schools (see Appendix 3 for SEN charts).

Development of Multi-Professional Locality Teams in the NW Area

9. In the NW area there are five locality teams, two serving schools in Woking, two in Runnymede and one in Surrey Heath. Schools were grouped according to geographical area, established links and existing school confederations (Appendix 4 lists the schools served by the Woking locality teams).
10. In September 2003 when the locality teams became fully operational planning meetings were held in each school. These ranged from including all of the MPT professionals linked to the school and many also included Connexions Personal Advisors and Health representatives (e.g. speech and language therapists) to one or two MPT professionals representing the team. The issues covered and professionals that were involved reflected the needs and requests of the individual school. There has been positive feedback from schools about the usefulness of these planning meetings. It has enabled a coordinated approach and reduced duplication for schools.
11. Links with Social Care Teams into MPT will start with the CWD Team coming into the MPT in April 2004. Further links are being developed with the Assessment Team, Children's Team and Family Centre with the plan that linked social workers will be named for each locality team.

Performance Indicators

12. Data is being collected on a termly and annual basis on the following performance indicators. This information is used by the MPTs to inform practice and highlight areas of priority in their work with schools.

Termly

13. Number of children brought back from out county schools
 Number of new out county placements
 Number of appeals to SEN Tribunals, Disability Tribunals that have been withdrawn
 % of statements drawn up within 18 weeks
 Number of children on action, action plus and statement in mainstream schools
 Number of days pupils not in educational provision due to formal/informal exclusion
 Number of days pupils not in educational provision due to medical needs
 Number of days pupils not in educational provision on a statement awaiting placement
 Number of days unauthorised absence of looked after children
 Number of children of statutory school age who came off a mainstream school roll other than for a house move
 Number of pupil sessions lost to absence in schools with mandatory targets
 Number of exclusions fixed term/permanent

Yearly

14. Number of statements ceased by locality team
 Attainment of looked after children
 Attainment of Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils
 Attainment of Ethnic and Language Minority Achievement (ELMA) pupils
 % of Head Teachers who rate the service they receive as good or excellent
 % of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) who rate the service they receive as good or excellent
 % of teachers who feel more confident in meeting the range of SEN
 % of staff who feel positive about working in the locality teams
 Number of sessions lost to absence in primary and secondary schools
 Special and out county school attainment (provided on an area basis)
15. The first termly report has been produced (Appendix 5).
16. There are 21 Looked After Children (LAC) attending schools in Woking

Consultation with schools

17. Consultation with schools continues to further develop effective service provision with some positive feedback from local headteachers. Work is being completed this term on allocating MPT time to schools according to need. Data used to develop a formula for allocating time includes numbers of pupils with SEN (school action/plus and statements), mobility, free school meals, and social deprivation.

Internal Service Integration

18. Within areas all Multi-Professional Team Managers are members of an Area Management Group with the Social Care Managers and this continues to provide benefits in improving the understanding of need and working practice between education and social care. The locality team co-ordinators are being integrated into this forum.
19. Joint training has been ongoing in order to establish effective teams with a shared understanding of roles and accountabilities.

Multi-Agency Working

20. With the formation of locality teams other agencies are now better able to develop links with the MPTs. Health professionals such as school nurses are aligning with the MPT locality teams. Primary Mental Health workers are developing links at a borough level with MPTs. Extensive multi-agency work continues to be carried out with health through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in each area.
21. A local partnership board for Woking has been established to bring together all agencies working locally and jointly hosted a successful conference in December to launch the integrated assessment and referral project and to examine strategies for more effective joint working with all partners.

Children's Placements

22. The rationalisation of placement panels for social care and education has taken place with the establishment of area placement panels. The panels are chaired by Area Managers or MPTMs and combine issues relating to education, health and social care needs of children. The priority of the panels is to ensure that effective use of funding and resources is made and that wherever possible children's needs are met within their locality.

Equalities implications

23. The aims of the service are:

- To develop preventive and inclusive strategies.
- To build capability within families and schools.
- To centre our practice and processes on the needs of children.
- To ensure the safety of all Surrey children.
- To focus on the achievement of all children, especially those who have additional needs.

To act as the best possible 'Corporate Parent'.

24. In addition, the Service is fully committed to and is not complacent about Equalities issues.

Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

25. This report describes development of MPTs who provide services for children and young people who need support to achieve their full potential in education. The report invites the comments and views of the Local Committee for Woking in order that Members' local knowledge might enhance local service delivery in the north west area.

26. For Members' information, Appendix 6 contains a report on the Physical and Sensory Support Service, and Appendix 7 contains the Traveller Education Service report. Both these services are countywide.

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No of

APPENDIX	1	MPT Structure
APPENDIX	2	Roles and responsibilities of MPT professionals
APPENDIX	3	SEN Data and Development Plan
APPENDIX	4	Lists of schools in Woking 1&2 locality teams
APPENDIX	5	MPT Performance Data
APPENDIX	6	Physical and Sensory Support Service (PSSS) Report
APPENDIX	7	Traveller Education Service (TES) Report