

South West SEND and Inclusion Regional Priorities and Action Plan Highlight Report

Date of Report:	01 04 2025 Reporting Period 1
Reporting period:	January to end of April 2025
SW SEND Regional Coordinator:	Dr Vikki Jervis

1. South West Inclusion/SEND Network Priorities Progress

How much have we done? How well have we done it? What difference has it made?

- **SW RIIA Website:** continues to go from strength to strength with a 6.6% increase in people visiting the site over the past 90 days.
- **Newsletter Email.** There is a significant amount of SEND information being published almost daily. To ensure colleagues have all the information in a manageable way we are sending an email every circa 2 weeks with a summary and key links to important reports and documents. This information is also stored on our website www.swriia.org.uk 6 full newsletters have been circulated to nearly 200 colleagues in this reporting period.
- **SEND Leadership:** 25 participants from 14 local area partnerships have been taking part in this popular leadership course run by the staff college. Delegates from PCF, education, health and care are all working together on the course. The course ends in July and an evaluation will follow.
- **The Lead case Officer network** 17 attendees from 11 local area partnerships attended the lead case work officer event. The group agreed Induction training proposals with regional induction training starting in September 2025.
- **Oak Manor SEND peer network.** 41 participants from across PCF, SENDIAS, NHS, DFE, CYPsa education, health and care spent the day together. 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the presentation and networking worked for me today. This event had important feedback from our regional Change Programme Partners, learning from the recent inspection in Wiltshire, a discussion about Health care in schools and opportunities for peer supervision and sharing.
- **Self-Evaluation Workshop** 11 colleagues came together from 7 local area partnerships to focus on SEF writing, with 2 out of 7 Integrated Care Board representatives also joining us for the event. The event was planned with the lead SEND advisor from the LGA. Feedback was very positive with 100% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the regional meeting today was useful to me.

A small working group was established to complete regional SEF good practice guidance. The working group will meet in July with the guidance available soon after the meeting.

- **The Operational Steering group** met to plan the conference, Oake Manor study days and to comment on the regional plan so far. The work of this group continues to be important in driving the work of the SEND plan.
- **The Strategic Steering Group** has met with strategic leaders from the region working together to coproduce the regional plan. Time was taken to explore the 4 areas of the plan with detailed discussions about working with families and coproduction, stronger workforce, robust and consistent measures and insights, and strengthening the regional inclusive system.

Each of the 27 priority actions were discussed and decisions made as to whether the priority actions were active at this time. It was decided to rate some actions as inactive until further information on the direction of national travel is clearer. Colleagues undertook an activity on Inclusion comparing the Salamanca agreement definition with the recent OFSTED definition of Inclusion. It was decided that:

- 10 actions identified in the plan should be prioritised in regional work.
- 3 actions require further clarification and redrafting.
- 12 actions should remain on the plan to be activated following national announcements.

Strategic Steering Group bulletins are available after each meeting to share key messages to the region from the meeting.

- The **Alternative Learning Provision Network** met – 15 attendees from 10 local area partnerships met to discuss best practice.
- The **Legal training** with Bevan Britan solicitors was a positive lively event with 100% of local area partnerships in attendance and 63 colleagues. 86 % of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that this session would be helpful to my work.
- The second **SEND Information Forum** took place in January. The SEND Information Forums (SIF) are to share information from all partners including the DFE, Education, Health, Care, PCF and SENDIASS to name a few. The meetings are intended for colleagues working in SEND to stay up to date with new information and to share "better practice". 58 attendees received 5 different updates from across the SEND system including up to date information from the DFE. 14 out of the 15 local area partnerships attended (93% of the region).
- Our one-day **Annual Conference** was held in April 2025 at the Mercure Exeter Southgate Hotel and focussed upon Moving on and growing up. KC Jones event management team supported us in running the event. Registration for the conference had to close three weeks early as all places had been booked. A further 20 places were secured to meet demand. The full conference package, and night prior accommodation sold out. 100% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the conference was good value with one day attendance (no accommodation) £105.00 (excluding VAT) and with accommodation £210.00 (excluding VAT). We were able to pay for the attendance of the PCF for each region and 14 out of the 15 PCF regions attended. This was the first time that so many PCFs from the region had come together in one place. 95 people registered for the event this year with 86 in attendance on the day. Together the attendees had 1474 years of experience of working in the SEND space.

All local area partnerships were represented and 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to make good use of the networking opportunities provided and 100% agreed or strongly

agreed that the presentations worked for me. Colleagues reported finding the good practice examples most helpful.

- SW SEND colleagues stepped in to support and run the **Social Care Peer Challenge** in this reporting period and have committed to working even closer with children's services colleagues on future events. Feedback suggests that colleagues were pleased with the organisation and learning from the event.
- We continue to represent the region at national events including the tribunal user group meeting, the **ADCS Health Care and Additional needs Committee** HCAN Leading and organising national RIIA SEND Coordinators meeting, national CDC training and other events.
- **SWSEND Plan.** The SW SEND plan has been coproduced by the Strategic Steering group members. The plan is organised under 4 key priority areas for action:
 - 1) Engaging families and coproduction
 - 2) Stronger workforce
 - 3) Robust and consistent measures and insights
 - 4) Strengthening the inclusive regional system.
- **Regional Collaboration and Peer Challenge (RCPC).** Planning for the next peer SEND challenge event on 9/10/2025 has started.

2. Programme Activities Planned for reporting Period 2 May to August 2025

May 12/05/2025 Operational Steering Group (14:00 - 16:00) 13/05/2025 SEND Huddle (15:00 - 16:00) 14/05/2025 Strategic Steering Group (13:00-16:00) Face to Face - Taunton Racecourse 20/05/2025 Legal Training session 3 (14:00 - 16:00)	June 02/06/2025 NEW! Operational Leads Network (11:00 – 12:00) 09/06/2025 Assistant Directors Network 16/06/2025 Oake Manor Event 24/06/2025 Case Officer Network (15:00 - 16:30)
July 02/07/2025 Strategic Steering Group (14:00-17:00) 07/07/2025 Operational Leads Network (11:00 – 12:00) SEND Information Forum (15:30 - 17:00)	August 05/08/2025 Legal Training session 4 (14:00 - 16:00) 12/08/2025 SEND Huddle (15:00 - 16:00) 20/08/2025 Strategic Steering Group (14:00 - 17:00) Flexible session

14/07/2025 Operational Steering Group (14:00 - 16:00)	
15/07/2025 AP Network (13:00 - 15:00)	

3. Key messages for the region

These key messages highlight the progress made, the effectiveness of the initiatives, and the positive impact on the SEND community.

Message 1 SWSEND continues to have an extensive reach and new networks and groups have been established.

Message 2 The national SEND landscape continues to be challenging capacity and finances are key risks. The dominant narrative is around strengthening mainstream inclusive provision.

Message 3 We are beginning to benefit from coming together as a region to save time to work on areas of shared concern. We are getting better at identifying how we can identify gaps and where we can effect change

Message 4 The SW RIIA work is funded through a section 31 grant to date we have not received confirmation of the size or scope of the section 31 expectations. This makes planning work from April 1st 2025 challenging.

Message 5 We continue to make contributions to national groups by attending national meetings and feeding back on consultations on behalf of the region.

Message 6 The SW SEND project officer has now been in post for over year and the role has made a significant impact on the reach, impact and efficiency of the project.