

RICHMOND SEND PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Virtual meeting via Google meets

31 January 2022 – 9.30am – 11.30 am

Attendees:	
Charis Penfold (CP) - chair	Director of Education Services, AfC
Anna Chiva (AC)	Associate Director of Special Educational Needs, AfC
Martin Ellis (ME)	Director of Transformation / Deputy Locality Director SW London CCG (RBK & LBR)
James Ellis (JE)	London Case Lead SEND Improvement and Operations Division
Jonathan Rourke (JR)	SENDIASS Team Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston, KIDS
Ashley Whittaker (AW)	Programme Director, AfC
Cllr Penny Frost (PF)	Chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee
Julie Hale (JH)	Divisional Manager Richmond Children's Services, Hounslow & Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust
Alison Stewart (AS)	Designated Clinical Officer for SEND, CCG
Heather Mathew (HM)	Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Strategic Lead Manager, Richmond CVS
Karel Stevens-Lee (KS-L)	Deputy Head of Transformation – Children's Services Lead SW London CCG (RBK & LBR)
Kirsty Hogg (KH)	Commissioning Support Lead, Richmond Council
Ivan Pryce (IP)	Chief Exec., Auriga Academy Trust & Headteacher, Strathmore School
Claire Schneider (CS)	Clinical Service Manager for Paediatric Therapies, HRCH
Sheldon Snashall (SS)	Associate Director for Pupil Support, AfC
Alan Went (AW)	Headteacher, Hampton Hill Junior School
Sara Doyle (SD)	Associate Director for Identification and Assessment, AfC
Rekha Patel on behalf of Toni Whitehouse (RP)	Richmond upon Thames College
Alex Hardy (AH)	Independent Supporter, Ruils
Philip Moshi (PM)	Trustee, Richmond Mencap

Grace Over (GO)	Participation Officer for Children and Young People with SEND, AfC
Nicola Moore	Policy and Projects Officer, AfC
Kelly Dooley (KD)	Headteacher, The Richmond upon Thames School
Nigel Evason (NE)	Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Children's Services NHS South West London CCG
Karl Burgess (KB)	Transition Lead from Adult Social Services
Zoe Bloomfield (ZB)	Clinical Business Unit Manager Wandsworth and Richmond 0-19 and Specialist Services
Farah Ahmad (FA)	SEND Parent Engagement Officer for Richmond
Apologies:	
Ian Dodds (ID)	Director of Children's Services, Richmond Council
Minta Townsend (MT)	Vice-Chair of Richmond Parent Carer Forum
Tracy Gregory (TG)	Early Years Provider Representative
Tonia Michaelides (TMI)	Executive Locality Director – Kingston and Richmond, NHS SWL CCG
Ludmila Ibesaine	0-19 Clinical Lead - Richmond
Laura Turner (LT)	CEO, Richmond Mencap
Natalie Douglas (ND)	Deputy Director Clinical Services for Richmond and Southwest London
Alison Danks (AD)	Associate Director of Health Services, AfC
Claire Richmond (CR)	Richmond Parent Carer Forum
John Street (JS)	Head of Community Services, Richmond Council
Nikki Craig (NC)	AfC Board representative

1. Introductions and welcome

CP welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. CP gave apologies on behalf of Ian Dodds who was unable to attend due to the Ofsted inspection of Richmond Children's Social Care this week.

Introductions were made.

2. Children and young people update

GO shared an update / reflection from the last meeting held with children and young people in December 2021. GO discussed the experience of a young person transitioning to adult services

and their experience of accessing health and therapy services.

This particular young person's experience had a particular focus on Community Physiotherapy and the response of acute services following a diagnosis of Long Covid. The young person described feeling that their needs were seen as “insignificant” and that the speed and quality of the services were poor.

GO suggested that services can learn from this young person's experience of the transition between children's and adult services and accessing therapies. The feedback also highlights the need for Workstream 6 to focus on transitions and the access to / quality of therapy services for 18 to 25 year olds.

CS suggested that the experience of this young person could be used as case study.

AS advised that she will be following up this case and looking at the roles and responsibilities with these services.

3. Parent and carer update

As apologies for the meeting had been received from Richmond PCF representatives, this item will be carried forward to the next meeting (28.03.22).

4. WSOA

CP thanked NM for sharing the Project Overview Document and noted the good references to risk, challenges which will be helpful to the Board. CP added that the document also references the demand on services and the challenges of recruiting therapists, both of which are helpful reminders.

AC shared the Workstream 6 Transitions presentation and noted that the work undertaken has increased the motivation for joint working and partnership working across all sections and diverse groups.

AC added that parent representatives will join the next Workstream 6 - Transition and Pathway Planning meeting on 31.03.22. GO is assisting with identifying a young person to also join the group.

[Link to Richmond Partnership Board Workstream 6 - Transitions and Pathway Planning Presentation](#)

Subgroup One Additional Notes:

Young people and pathways need to be identified earlier so schools and colleges can work more cohesively together. Transition activities should be used to identify those children who may struggle with the transition to college. Pathway planning and outcomes should be a focus.

Subgroup Two Additional Notes:

A discussion is taking place as to whether it will be useful to merge subgroups one and two and how we are and can use annual reviews effectively. JM queried whether the focus on annual reviews will be lost if the subgroups are merged. AC advised that discussions are ongoing.

Data will be used to measure impact and the new data system will be available from September 2022.

JM requested that any feedback from our training regarding outcomes for PfA be passed on so this can be used across London or nationally if applicable.

CP noted that there needs to be representation from Commissioning on this workstream and this is useful in terms of identifying provision needed to support future 16-25 provision.

Subgroup Three Additional Notes:

AC noted that the biggest challenges are in relation to how services are commissioned at key points of transition. Transitions need to be mapped and CP added that staying well informed in regard to what services are available, sharing information and knowing what a successful outcome looks like is key.

A focus is required on careers advice and student aspirations and reducing the barriers to positive discussion.

AH queried whether personal budgets could be used as a tool. AC responded that it was agreed that there should be more flexibility in this area.

Subgroup Four Additional Notes:

JM asked how the work for young people aged 18 to 25 years would be developed and what plans are in place. KSL responded that the current service model is being looked at and discussions are taking place with providers. The current service model will then be amended for this age group. A number of workshops and meetings are also taking place to look at pathway modelling to reshape the current offer. More detailed conversations are required in this area.

HM noted that provision of therapies is now part of the specification and that any delays in service provision is related to resource availability.

CS added that funding for therapies has been redistributed and the offer has been available to secondary schools (not colleges) since the beginning of term.

AS advised that young people aged sixteen plus are being involved in conversations about provision of services. Transition for health services are also being explored and the current practice for those young people with complex needs. The team is keen to learn from cases that have gone well and active learning is taking place.

PM noted that for children and young people who have continuing health care there is a focus on improving transitions as there is sometimes a gap and an inconsistency of services. Planning needs to take place earlier to enable adult services to clearly plan and communicate better with families.

PF added that early intervention was good practice rather than the current model which is based on crisis intervention. Services currently appear to be reactive so earlier planning is required.

NE advised that whole service changes are currently being implemented to transform what

services do and to revise the current system so that transitions are “more natural”. NE added that in relation to personal budgets all budgets are committed and services are block purchased. A meeting is taking place next week to look at good practice.

NE will present a summary of the outcomes of this meeting at the next Board.

KB advised that Continuing Health Care meet quarterly to discuss children and young people with complex needs. The meetings link pathways and ensure that work is being undertaken in a timely way by the CCG.

5. SEND Futures Plan update report and data set

AW gave a progress update on implementation of the plan, report and performance dashboard.

[Link to SEND Futures Plan Update](#)

[Link to Performance Dashboard](#)

AW introduced Farah Ahmad the new SEND Parent Engagement Officer for Richmond. Farah will be working alongside Rob Harris in Kingston. Farah will be working with Coram to launch a Parent Champion Scheme in Richmond to enable parents to provide peer support to other parents. She will also be working closely with the Parent Carer Forum and is meeting with charities in Richmond to explore opportunities.

Quality First Teaching Update - Sheldon Snashall

This is a project to promote inclusion in schools. The Inclusion Charter is a resource which has been developed in response to the increased level of need in schools and achieving good inclusion outcomes.

A multi professional group was formed to understand what exactly inclusion means. An electronic resource has been developed and the Inclusion Charter is a one page document that schools sign and display in reception to indicate their commitment to inclusion and to celebrate diversity. The resource pack is structured to allow schools to access individual elements based on their needs.

Schools can use the self evaluation audit to identify gaps in provision and it provides “how to” guides in relation to applying resources.

The electronic resource is divided into four areas:

1. Assessment and screening section. This is to enable schools to understand their needs through a menu of screening which covers education and pastoral needs. There are different levels covering all year groups.
2. Quality First Teaching. This area asks schools to look at how they teach as well as they can, isolates areas of teaching where staff need to develop their skills and gives access to the necessary resources.
3. QFT Plus. This area gives schools an understanding of their teaching needs. It identifies pupil performance issues and allows schools to create a menu of interventions.
4. Learning and development. This allows schools to screen, assess and intervene as well as they can. It also provides the training to enable schools to make the most of the available digital resources.

SS reported that the project is progressing well and area two, Quality First Teaching, is currently being trialled and led by SPARK ED. The draft tool kit is ready for those schools signed up to SPARK ED to use in the summer term and provide feedback. The formal launch will take place in September 2022.

Update - AW

AW confirmed that Safety Valve funding for Q3 from the DfE has been received and is confident that funding for Q4 will be forthcoming.

AW advised two new colleagues have / will join the local Commissioning Team working across the whole system, Suzanne Toomer has already joined the team and Sally Parkinson will join at the beginning of March.

Concerns have been raised in relation to post 16 placement costs and it was noted that there is a national shortage of placements / key staff.

Performance in relation to issuing EHC plans within 20 weeks has dipped to just over 60% (according to the most recent DfE survey of LAs the national average is currently about 50%). Work is being undertaken to return the performance levels to the usual high levels of over 80%. The reason for this decrease in performance is the timeliness of services (mainly health teams) returning advice, which is delaying the process by two to three weeks. Challenges were also noted in waiting times for the Emotional Health Service, this has been due to staff recruitment issues. AS reassured the Board that work is underway within the health teams to improve response times when providing advice. AS noted there have been data and process issues for the teams.

Therapies Update - CS

CS presented The Richmond Paediatric Therapy Services Update.

[Link to Richmond Paediatric Therapy Services Update](#)

Please note that some slides have been amended, since the presentation at the Board as follows and amendments are included in the document attached:

Slide 2: Richmond speech and language therapy SEN support service was re-launched in January and is being positively received by schools.

Provision of therapies to out of borough places being paused as the service is not commissioned to deliver input to OOB placements so this has been removed.

AS advised that a meeting will be arranged to discuss access to therapies for young people post 16 years. AS will provide an update to the next Board.

6. Previous minutes/actions

Parent / carer deferred update from Claire Richmond regarding secondary transfer will be made at

the next Board.

7. AOB

Jonathan Rourke, SENDIASS team Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston flagged the Centre for Social Justice report on children missing school post Covid and the disproportionate impact on children/ young people with SEND.

https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CSJ-Lost_but_not_for_gotten-1.pdf

Also these two pieces from last night's Channel 4 news related to it.

<https://www.channel4.com/news/ghost-children-thousands-largely-absent-from-school-over-pandemic-report-says>

<https://www.channel4.com/news/new-oliver-twist-generation-in-danger-of-being-created-tory-mp-says>

At SENDIASS we have had in the last 4-6 months a fairly significant uplift in these kind of issues coming to us as cases.

Next meeting: 28th March 2022 - 9.30 - 11.30am