

Kingston Parent Carer Consortium: Tuesday the 15th of November 2022, 12:00-13:30 Meeting Minutes

Parent Carer Forum / Parent & Carer representatives

Claudia Isaby (CI), Kelly Harrison (KH), Joe Thomas (JT) Karen Gale (KG)

Staff

Alison Stewart, Designated Clinical Officer, Integrated Care System (AS), Ashley Whittaker, Programme Director, AfC (AW), Alys Robinson, SEND inclusion Officer (AR), Jonathan Rourke, Kids, SENDIASS (JR), Rob Harris, Parent Carer Engagement Officer, AfC (RH), Karen Lowry, Communications Officer, AfC (KL), Megan Francis-Falkner, SEND Policy and Project Coordinator, AfC (MF), Councillor Stephanie Archer (SA), Farah Ahmad, Parent Engagement Officer, AfC (FA)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

AW welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions and apologies.

2. Parent Carer Forum update

CI gave an update on the Parent Carer Forum (PCF):

- CI noted that she was happy to be involved with the Speech and Language Programme that was starting soon and that Beverly Pass was happy to be involved in the Banding Project.
- The PCF has continued work with the Autism in Schools Project.
- The PCF ran a SENDIASS session on the 14th of November, and are looking to have another event in December and January.
- Some members of the PCF will be attending the integrated care system training at the beginning of next month.

The following discussion was had around a consultation on SEND children in mainstream schools and the work currently happening with Peter Gray:

- AW asked CI if she was able to ask her network of parents and carers if anyone was willing to attend a consultation with a consultant looking at SEND children in mainstream schools. **Action:** CI noted that she would ask her network and get back to AW on this.
- AW suggested running a daytime session and an evening session with about five members in each.
- It was decided that if we were unable to recruit enough members via CI's network, KL would put a notice in the SEND Register newsletter.

AW asked CI if she wanted to send Christmas cards again this year, as AfC would need to plan resources if so.

Action: CI to put this on the agenda at the next PCF meeting and let AW know.

3. SEND Futures Conference: next steps

- AW thanked everyone involved in the SEND Futures Conference and noted that it was a great opportunity for delegates to meet people in different parts of the system.
- AW presented the feedback received from the conference delegates to the group and noted that this feedback would be taken forward to the SEND Partnership Board. SA noted that the event was a success and thanked everyone involved.
- AW noted that input from the PCF in the organisation of the event led to a much better turnout of parents, as the organisation was better planned and timed. He thanked all parents and carers for their help in organising and delivering the conference.

4. OFSTED Care Quality Commission revisit outcome

- AW thanked the parents and carers who were involved in the revisit. AW noted that the local area was judged to have made sufficient progress in all four areas identified as areas of significant weakness in 2018. However, he also stressed that inspectors also highlighted that parents and carers remain dissatisfied with a number of aspects of the SEND system, as articulated in the letter, and the outcome of the inspection would not impact the effort and work AfC will invest in continuing to improve and develop SEND services.
- SA noted getting this result within the current climate is a big achievement.
- CI also felt that this was a good result, however, wanted to note that progress needed to continue and that there were issues that needed to be dealt with. AW concurred and noted AfC would continue to work on SEND improvement in the four areas subject to the revisit and other areas too.

5. Participation, Engagement & Co-production update

RH gave an update on participation, engagement, and co-production:

- RH is working with the PCF on the following projects: Transition pathways to adult services, and the banding system for the funding of EHC plans.
- RH has been involved in outreach, such as arranging parent coffee mornings at Bedelsford School and St Philips School, in addition to building on the work at Dysart coffee mornings.
- RH has shared a new leaflet, which details top tips on how to access support for parents with SEND children. They are also looking to do some more training with teams such as social care so that they can pass on the relevant information.
- RH took part in an outreach seminar with Richmond Mind where he signposted to the leaflet and conducted outreach with Parent Champions with Burlington School and a local church as part of the Magpie Project.
- Spring School, which is due to open in September 2023, now has a [website](#) up and running, which provides information about what cohort they will be expecting in September. They have an ongoing section 10 consultation, which provides an opportunity for parents to say what they would like from the school.

KL: I have included a link to the SEND banding project with a questionnaire in the last SEND register newsletter, but they have had no questions or responses so far.

RH: Beverley Pass will be providing input on this, and a communication strategy could hopefully be built on from this.

6. Health, Education, Social Care & Short Breaks update

AS gave up an update on Health:

- AS is in the process of establishing a SEND subgroup that will report to the Maternity, Children, and Young People's Board within the Integrated Care System (ICS).
- Within the SEND workstream AS is looking to ensure representation across all six areas in South-West London. Currently, there are debates around whether Kingston will sit within the South-West London Board or the North-West London Board.
- AS highlighted the importance of ensuring SEND workstream priorities were co-produced. There will be an inaugural online meeting in December 2022 and then a face-to-face meeting in January 2023.
- Priorities for health improvement from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) include focusing on asthma and SEND, this will link into the work around the learning disabilities and the autism programme. This may move towards an all-age service that combines children and transition services for children in SEND.

CI (Q): In terms of this representation, are you expecting that people / parents and carers in the region will be involved?

AS (A): Ideally yes. We are looking at quarterly meetings but there will also be task and finish groups. I want to ensure we have local representation as well as regional representation as all the regions are very different. I also want to look at how we represent SEND within these health inequalities. I am considering whether we need a Local Authority representative which would feed back to the professional group, or whether we need all six areas in South West London represented in a starter meeting.

AR gave an update on Short Breaks:

- The bookings for [FUEL](#) (feeding your everyday lives) are now live on the website.
- Bookings are also open for Next Thing Education and Bounce Theatre, which are both SEND-specific. The link to the bookings [can be found here](#).

KG noted that at a recent SENDIASS session parents still felt there wasn't enough out there in terms of short breaks, and that she was going to work with RH to try to get the word out more about what is available.

AW gave an update from Anna Chiva on Education:

- The Spring School is still on track to open. JR noted he had been to one of the consultation sessions and said that interested parents will need to talk to the school and case workers fairly urgently, as there is a specific cohort the school is looking to support.
- KG noted that she was at the Spring School meeting, and felt that understanding the exact cohort of who they are covering wasn't clear enough for her. **Action:** AW noted that he would speak to Anna Chiva about the school cohort.
- AW noted that the number of children needing specialist placements continues to increase, and our specialist resource provisions (SRPs) and specialist placements are full. This demonstrates the importance of the upcoming consultation on SEND children in mainstream schools (Peter Gray work).
- AC has met with secondary school teachers around transition, including re. SEND children attending open days. Headteachers have formed a working group which amongst other things will seek to ensure those open days will improve.

CI (Q): Do you ever consult with other Local Authorities? Whilst working on the Autism in Schools project, I found that there has been a specific piece of work done at Ealing Council noting set initiatives that all the schools do to ensure a smooth transition for SEND children to secondary school.

AW (A): Anna Chiva sits on various groups that span London to do with SEND, and then meets with others in her team to share best practice. **Action:** AW to speak to Anna Chiva about contacting Ealing Council.

7. Actions from previous meetings

- AS was to circulate more details on the support service for children and young people - **Action: AW will follow up with AS on this**
- RH to send soft copy of SEND leaflet to Asif - **Completed**
- CI to send out an update in Spring School Newsletter - **Completed**
- Any volunteers for the Transitions Pathway - **CL to talk about this at the Steering group meeting**
- Advertising of the Stay and Play Session - **Completed**
- PCF having a specific session on short breaks - **this should happen in the next couple of months**

8. A.O.B

- KG is working on a calendar event which should clarify some plans for short breaks within the next month. **Action:** AR noted that she and Geraldine would meet up with KG about this.

- KL reminded everyone to send her the information if they wanted anything publicised, such as PCF activities. She also noted that there was an accessible pantomime taking place in Surbiton. There is also a [violence against women and girls session](#) put on by Kingston Police. And there are online [Chat and Play sessions](#) in Kingston, there is one this Thursday with the Sensory Team. **Action:** KG to send out the link to the Chat and Play session to the small groups she is a part of to get the attendance up.

End of meeting