



## Kingston SEND Partnership Board

	Wednesday 23 November 2022, 10-12pm
	Virtual via Google Meets

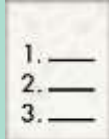



## Members

Ian Thomas, Chair	<b>IT</b>	Chief Executive	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Alison Danks	<b>AD</b>	Associate Director for Health Services	Achieving for Children
Alison Stewart	<b>AS</b>	Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. (Designated Clinical Officer for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – Kingston and Richmond)	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System
Alison Twynam	<b>AT</b>	Director Children's Social Care	Achieving for Children
Ashley Whittaker	<b>AW</b>	Programme Director	Achieving for Children
Beverley Pass	<b>BP</b>	Co-Chair	Parent Carer Forum
Charis Penfold	<b>CP</b>	Director for Education Services	Achieving for Children

Chelseay Markow	<b>CMa</b>	DfE SEND Improvement and Intervention Case Lead	Department for Education
Clare Meadows	<b>CMe</b>	Head of Learning and Development	Achieving for Children
Ian Dodds	<b>ID</b>	Director of Children's Services	Achieving for Children
Iona Lidington	<b>IL</b>	Director of Public Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Jemma Sharples – on behalf of Sophia Njiri	<b>JS</b>	Learning Disability Nurse Advisor/ Regional SEND Advisor	NHS England and NHS Improvement – London Region
Jonathan Rourke	<b>JR</b>	SENDIASS Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston	SENDIASS
Judith Mobbs	<b>JM</b>	SEND Professional Adviser	Department for Education
Megan Francis-Falkner	<b>MF-F</b>	SEND Policy and Project Coordinator	Achieving for Children
Sally Parkinson	<b>SP</b>	Associate Director for Business Development and Strategic Commissioning	Achieving for Children
Sian Wicks	<b>SW</b>	Non-Executive Director	Achieving for Children
Cllr Stephanie Archer	<b>SA</b>	Portfolio Holder Children's Services including Education	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Stuart Sweeney	<b>SS</b>	Lay Member (Social Investment Sector)	
Sue Lear	<b>SL</b>	Deputy Director of Transformation	NHS South West London CCG, Kingston and Richmond
<b>Apologies</b>			
Anna Chiva	<b>AC</b>	Associate Director for Special Educational Needs	Achieving for Children
Carmel Brady	<b>CB</b>	Speech & Language Therapist Lead for Children's Services	Your Healthcare CIC
Claudia Isaby	<b>CI</b>	Co-Chair	Parent Carer Forum
Georgina Andrews	<b>GA</b>	Head of Practice Learning	Achieving for Children
Jonathan Brown	<b>JB</b>	Corporate Head of Service - Learning Disability & Transition, Locality Team Hubs	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Karen Long	<b>KL</b>	Service Lead, Frontline Services	Your Healthcare
Julie Percival	<b>JP</b>	Assistant Principal – Curriculum & High Needs	South Thames College Group
Laura Smyth	<b>LS</b>	Chief Executive Officer	Yorda Adventures
Leigh Edser	<b>LE</b>	Principal	Dysart School
Nikki Craig	<b>NC</b>	Head of HR, Corporate Projects and IT	Achieving for Children
Peter Mayhew-Smith	<b>PMS</b>	Group Principal and CEO	South Thames Colleges Group
Rachel Nye	<b>RN</b>	Headteacher	Tolworth Infant and Junior School
Rob Harris	<b>RH</b>	SEND Parent and Carer Engagement Officer, Kingston	Achieving for Children
Cllr Sabah Hamed	<b>SH</b>	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sarah Ireland	<b>SI</b>	Director of Corporate and Commercial	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sean Maher	<b>SM</b>	Headmaster	Richard Challoner School

Sharon Houlden	SH	Executive Director for Social Care and Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sophia Njiri	SN	London Region Clinical Lead - Children and Young People	NHS England and NHS Improvement
Terry Tottman	TT	Commissioning Manager	Achieving for Children
Tonia Michaelides	TM	Executive Locality Director (Kingston)	South West London CCG

 <b>Minutes</b>		<b>Action</b> 
1.	<p><b><i>Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies</i></b></p> <p>IT welcomed the Board, apologies noted.</p>	
2.	<p><b><i>Parent and carer update</i></b></p> <p>BP noted that since the last Board the PCF now have a co-chair, Claudia Isaby, who will attend the board when BP is unavailable. There is a lot of activity with Christmas, New Year and learning events. The PCF have agreed priorities and are currently focussing on Short Breaks, not necessarily with the local authority, but also with private providers to try and meet the needs of SEND families. Other priorities are housing, quality of EHCPs, which will be discussed later on the agenda. BP expressed her congratulations to IT on his recent appointment and thanked him for his support.</p> <p>IT thanked BP for her continued support, even after moving out of the borough, and the board are grateful for her commitment. IT noted that the Green Paper sets out that we are required to have a local partnership board and it is the right that we do, it should be chaired by a senior leader who can bring all the partners together with a shared moral compass, and who is not afraid to escalate issues when necessary. The future of the board will be discussed later on the agenda.</p>	

	<p>IT asked <b>BP</b> what else can the board do to help the PCF continue to progress. <b>BP</b> agreed to take back to the PCF, but noted that the PCF are still formulating how they can advance their own efforts and where the focus needs to be and what do parents and carers need locally. The PCF do receive support from different partners, and have been grateful that senior leaders have been involved with the PCF, but with <b>IT</b> moving on, the PCF are keen to see that the future CEO also has a SEND focus. <b>BP</b> asked if <b>Cllr Archer</b> could note the need for a SEND focus in the recruitment process and <b>BP</b> noted that she would be willing to be part of the interview process. <b>Cllr Archer</b> noted the point and agreed to take it forward, but did point out that the decision about who attends the recruitment panel does not sit with <b>Cllr Archer</b>.</p> <p><b>JM</b> wanted to reassure <b>BP</b> that the outcome of the revisit does not mean that the focus will change moving forward. <b>JM</b> noted that even though she will not be attending future boards, <b>JM</b> will still be meeting with senior leaders from AfC. There is still further work to complete, which was identified in the revisit. The scrutiny through the Safety Valve process will continue and there is still progress to be made and this will remain on the local authority's agenda, together with the health partner's agenda.</p> <p><b>Cllr Archer</b> asked <b>BP</b> if she could be invited to the next PCF meeting – <b>Action = Cllr Archer / BP to make arrangements.</b></p>	
3.	<p><b><i>Outcome of the joint area SEND revisit</i></b></p> <p><b>CP</b> talked the board through the outcomes of the recent joint area SEND revisit, please see attached presentation for detail.</p> <p><b>JM</b> noted her congratulations to the Board, frontline staff and to everyone who was involved in making progress and reaching the positive outcome. <b>JM</b> joined towards the end of the WSOA journey, but had met with those who were working on the WSOA and is aware of how much hard work and passion was involved, which was not always easy, in achieving the positive outcome. It is important to take a moment to recognise the hard work involved. Secondly, <b>JM</b> wanted to</p>	

reiterate the work being done on embedding holistic outcomes, and noted that this will be looked at favourably in future Ofsted inspections. One area of focus in future inspections will be outcomes, the work being done on holistic outcomes is going to be critical and **JM** stressed that the focus must remain on this area. Thirdly, **JM** noted the SEN2 data (the local authority statutory data collection that takes place every January), now including the Annual Review performance, will also be another focus in the inspection, this is definitely a key area for the whole system to focus on. Lastly, a new area for all governance systems to look at and to be included in plans is the approach to Alternative Provision and how the wider governance arrangements and partnerships in the borough invest in this priority. **JM** noted that this will probably be a large part of the next inspection framework.

**IT** noted his thanks for the helpful comments and was in no doubt that the team were already thinking about the new framework. **IT** commented that if we focus on outcomes and work on improving the lives and lived experience of CYP and it is recorded well and evidenced, then hopefully a positive inspection outcome will follow.

**CP** noted her agreement with **IT** and felt we knew or hoped that outcomes would be a focus. It is not about the plan, it's about the difference the provision or opportunity makes for that CYP. The Alternative Provision conversation has already started with secondary head teachers and we have started to look at our strategy, aims and vision. When we review the SEND Futures Plan there needs to be a specific Workstream focussing on this area. There is a working party, which includes AfC colleagues and schools, to start looking at the vision, so that when we get the framework it can be included.

**AS** followed up on **CP** comments about outcomes and noted everyone's commitment to holistic outcomes. **AS** commented that it is difficult to ensure that we are all using the same language around outcomes and the work being completed on quality of advice across the system, and that our providers are actively engaged in the conversations. Moving forward, the ICS system are looking at establishing a SEND sub-group that will report into the Maternity, Children's and Young People's Board and are looking at the constitution of that group who will look at the work at place

	<p>based level and the integrated system, this will pick up on challenges such as transitions between children’s and adults services, therapies, medical needs.</p> <p>IT highlighted a point that the inspectors noted around ICS leadership arrangements in place across SW London for SEND. There are not many ICS systems that have invested so much in CYP with SEND and disabilities and that is something to be proud of.</p> <p>IT thanked the board and partners, including school colleagues and parents who were involved in the work that achieved this outcome. The work does not stop and we will continue to improve the lives of our CYP. We will ensure we are ready for the new framework, we will continue to do good work and evidence it.</p>	
4.	<p><b><i>SEND Futures Conference – so what?</i></b></p> <p>AW talked the board through some of the feedback from the SEND Futures Conference held at Harlequins Rugby Ground on 12 October 2022. The paper, already shared, will be sent with the minutes.</p> <p>Two short videos were presented, one interview with ID and the other with BP.</p> <p>Delegates were asked what the best parts of the conference were and the key points fed back were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The opportunity to connect and everyone was pleased to be meeting again face to face.</li> <li>● The value of the workshops in helping to upskill people, this was appreciated.</li> <li>● The keynote presentations from Dame Christine Lennon, Director of the Council for Disabled Children and Andre Imich, SEN and Disability Professional Adviser, Department for Education about the Green Paper.</li> </ul>	

The best parts in the SEND system:-

- Opportunities to network, especially the SENCo Network, where they can share best practise and learn from colleagues.
- The work of SENCos and all the work that they do.
- Early Years and how quick they are at responding.

Worries:-

- Shortages e.g. funding, resources, staffing.
- Post 16 Provision.
- Challenges with therapies / waiting lists.

What we need to be doing locally:-

- Training, workforce development across the whole system, including parents and carers.
- Support staff in schools.
- Mandatory mediation.

**JR** noted that mediation is incredibly useful in the vast majority of cases where parents/carers choose to engage. There are some occasions where it isn't going to be supportive, but in the vast majority of cases it is encouraged as early as possible. It works because families choose to engage and **JR** is not convinced it will work when mandatory.

What is already happening, feedback was:-

- Already feel more skilled as a practitioner as a result attending workshops.
- School Governors noted they now know what questions to ask as a result of training.
- School leaders are more informed and can plan effectively for the future for any changes in terms of the Green Paper

**AW** noted **SS** comment about EHCPs becoming more bespoke for the children concerned as a result of this work. **AW** explained that they have and this is the aim of upskilling training across the workforce.

**IT** noted that it is important that attendees receive feedback from the conference. The suggestions made must be included in the improvement plan moving forward and monitored. **AW** noted that there is an organising committee and it has been agreed that all delegates will receive the feedback and information about what is happening as a result of the feedback and what is going to be done differently.

**Cllr Archer** noted her attendance at the conference, which was a successful event with good attendance. The quality of the items and information was excellent. **Cllr Archer** noted her thanks to the organisers.

There was a discussion around the frequency of the event, the last one taking place in 2019 pre-Covid. It was noted that currently it is not an annual event, but **AW** commented that the organising committee are looking at the logistics of how often and when this event can be held.

**Action = IT / ID / Cllr Archer will send a note of thanks to the organising committee.**

**AD** expressed her thanks to the young person who opened the conference, **AD** noted that she had received feedback from other delegates about how powerful his input was and suggested that in future it would be good to see more young people involved in the conference. **AW** noted that the young person has received a letter of thanks for his participation and for giving up his time during a working day.



5. Update report and performance dashboard

For detail please refer to the reports circulated prior to the board.

**AW** noted a comment that **JM** made at the July Board, the purpose of this board is to scrutinise and hold partners to account for performance and the board should take the time to review the performance in detail and challenge if necessary. During the introductions **JM** confirmed that, due to the positive outcome of the revisit, her attendance at the board was no longer needed. **AW** asked if **JM** could still attend as the scrutiny is welcome. It was agreed that **JM** would be invited to future boards and would attend if available.

Things that are going well.

1. The outcome of the revisit.
2. Thank you to school colleagues for their ongoing work in the expansion of local specialist places, including the Spring School.
3. Post 16 pathways, including pathways to Adult Social Care and health services.

Worries.

1. Increased needs for CYP, and their needs becoming more severe requiring more support.
2. Inflation and the impact of costs of placements.

Dashboard

1. Cost of placements, the commissioning team have made a significant impact on savings and are continuing to do so.
2. Quality of EHCPs, feedback from parents has been positive.

3. The proportion of CYP with plans in academies or colleges, the proportion of plans in those settings continues to grow, particularly Post 16.

#### Worries

1. The increase in children accessing medical tuition.
2. Excluded SEND CYP - slight increase in children with SEND who receive exclusions.
3. Missing data, the cyber-attack on Care Notes, this is impacting on our reporting on therapies.

**AW** noted the CAMHS T3 data, which was unavailable when the reports were circulated, the number of cases that were seen within 8 weeks from referral to appointment is 43%, significantly lower than we would like it to be.

**AW** referred to research published by the DfE in June 2022 – High Needs Budgets: Effective Management in Local Authorities. The DfE wrote to all local authority CEOs asking them to ensure the findings of the research, including the ten specific recommendations, were considered in their local strategic plans for financial sustainability. Over the summer an evaluation of performance in Kingston against the findings of the research was undertaken, as a result of this it was decided to commission one of the authors of the report, Peter Gray, to complete a review of funding for pupils with SEND in mainstream schools without a SRP. Peter’s findings will be shared in the New Year.

**IT** was concerned about the number of CYP with SEND being excluded. **Cllr Archer** was concerned about absences and what are the barriers to children attending school, more information would be helpful, but is there anything else that we can do to help.

**AW** noted that the dashboard is going to be reviewed. The points about exclusions and absences, in the past Kingston were below the national average, but currently compared to the historical data, we are above. These areas are being reviewed as part of Workstream 4 and **CP** noted that the data is scrutinised thoroughly, looking at school trends. The challenge is also lack of specialist provision for some children, the mainstream provision is difficult for some children and also

challenging for some schools to sustain, some exclusion cases may just be one child in that school whose placement is tricky to sustain. Also the in-year admissions coming from abroad and other parts of the county, with additional needs, have increased the number of children needing a specialist provision.

**JM** commented that she understands the lack of placements and the challenges of SEND children in mainstream school settings, but the solution is not exclusion. Are there other ways the partnerships could explore supporting those schools to offer something different that avoids exclusion, e.g. training or interim support arrangements? **CP** commented that there is a process in place to help schools “Team around the School” where all the professionals involved in the school look at the needs of the children and help them use the resources they have in place in a better way.

**JM** also noted the point about Annual Reviews and concerned that the 4 week decision point has gone down significantly and is not as strong as it was during the revisit. This needs to be reviewed, it might be a processing issue, but it needs to be addressed. **Action = CP to follow-up with AC.**

**JM** continued and asked about the increasing number of EHCP and noted that not all local authorities are having an increase in EHCP. The strategy to manage demand is to focus on reducing the number, would it be helpful to revisit the Early Intervention pathway to consider if there is anything else that can be done to stop those requests coming through. **JM** also asked what is happening to address the worrying statistics around CAMHS.

**CP** noted that the EHCNA Panel has been revisited and looking at a more holistic multi-agency approach. It was previously led by the SEND team with other teams joining the panel, but now the panel will be chaired by School Improvement, Early Intervention, SEN and Educational Psychology. All the teams will look at the requests holistically and see where the requests are coming from. The information will be reviewed at the Education Associate Director meeting and if there are concerns, support will be provided to schools and the most appropriate follow up agreed in the panel.

**SL** noted additional support has been offered to schools around mental health, particularly where the CYP are waiting for their CAMHS appointment. It is hoped that this will strengthen the links between health, mental health and the school system and will help give schools confidence in managing the needs of the CYP.

**BP** noted her concerns about the SEND exclusions and requested more information to understand the reasons and what can be done to help schools.

**IT** noted that as a board we need to review these concerns, the board's expectation is that there will be improvements and there needs to be an update on exclusions, Annual Review, number of EHCPs and CAMHS. The update needs to include, what we are doing, what needs to be done to improve and evidence impact.

**CP** explained that more information can be provided, but with some of the challenges we face, securing improvement by the next board meeting may be hard to evidence. Some of the challenges are significant systemic issues and some are very complex. In terms of schools excluding a CYP, no school takes the decision to exclude a SEND CYP easily. There is a slight increase in numbers. Annual Review data can be reviewed and we will share a more detailed response at the next board meeting.

**SL** suggested that CAMHS Service attend a future board to explain what actions they are putting in place to support reducing waiting times.

**AS** explained that colleagues from CAMHS SPA and SWL St Georges are meeting to look at the ways the information from schools is used. The questionnaire that schools complete is being reviewed to ensure it is more reflective.

	<p>IT noted that it would be helpful to have more information, to include numbers of children as well as percentages, to better understand the issues raised and action being taken and impact moving forward. What can be put in place to support the schools and settings? IT asked the board that these areas will be focussed on and reviewed, the board agreed. <b>Action- The teams will prepare more detailed information on exclusions, Annual Review, number of EHCPs and CAMHS to be presented at the next board.</b></p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><i>Future arrangements for this Board</i></p> <p>There was a discussion around the future chair of the board. Taking into account the comments made by <b>JM</b> about the arrangements in other local authorities where the board is co-chaired by the DCS, with statutory responsibility, and a senior health colleague, for health accountability, with the frequency being bi-monthly, as is the current format. The board agreed with <b>ID</b> co-chairing the board with a senior health colleague. <b>SL</b> suggested Jo Farrar decides who the co-chair of the board is going forward.</p> <p>It was agreed to review membership and <b>JM</b> noted that the more providers understand the role of the board in making decisions the more likely they will prioritise.</p> <p><b>JR</b> suggested an alternative provision provider is asked to join the board.</p> <p>There was a short discussion about the board’s partnership working with health colleagues and it was agreed that <b>Cllr Archer</b> would meet with them for an introduction meeting to enable Cllr Archer to gain a better understanding of their work and involvement in the board. <b>SL</b> to help arrange.</p> <p>The board thanked <b>IT</b> for chairing the board and wished him good luck in the future.</p>	

<p>7.</p>	<p><b><i>Minutes from 27 July 2022 meeting and actions not otherwise covered</i></b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>Two actions to note from the last meeting: -</p> <p><b>1. Action – MF-H and SL to meet to discuss support as a matter of urgency, agree and report back the plans for day to day access to a DCO.</b></p> <p>SL updated the board that a DCO has been secured, with a therapy background, but will only be working for 2 days a week. SL is now looking at what can be put in place for the other 3 days and is exploring the possibility of a DCO Assistant role. SL confirmed that the role is not permanent and AS as DCO was always on secondment. It was agreed that this role is essential and needs to be reviewed as a priority. SL is in discussion with senior leaders at ICS about AS continued involvement.</p> <p><b>2. SL noted the conversation around anxiety, Mental Health and Wellbeing in CYP and explained that SWL St Georges have a Transformation Programme and would it be helpful to have someone from SWL St Georges to attend this Board? Action – AW to discuss with ID and take this forward.</b></p> <p>It was noted that discussions continue with SWL St Georges about a representative attending the board.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><b><i>Any other business and Forward Plan</i></b></p> <p>There were no items to note.</p>	

***Conclusion***

IT noted his apologies for the January 2023 board, which would have been his last board as chair. IT thanked the board and their staff for their hard work over the last few years and noted his time as chair has been rewarding and enjoyable.

IT wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**KINGSTON SEND Partnership Board will next meet on:**

**NB. Electronic invites have been sent.**

25 January 2023 at 10-12pm

29 March 2023 at 10-12pm

24 May 2023 at 10-12pm

19 July 2023 at 10-12pm

27 September 2023 at 10-12pm

29 November 2023 at 10-12pm