

## **Kingston SEND Parent Carer Consortium: Tuesday the 16th of May, 2023, 12:00-13:30**

**Parents and Carers:** Linda Nystrom (LN), Karen Gale (KG), Jo Thomas (JT), Rosie Fletcher-Brand (RFB), Bev Pass (BP)

**Staff:** Megan Francis-Falkner, SEND Policy and Project Officer, AfC (MF), Caroline Roberts, Inclusion Development Officer, AfC (CR), Rob Harris, SEND Parent Carer Engagement Officer, AfC (RH), Anna Chiva, Associate Director of SEND, AfC (AC), Karen Lowry, Manager of the Local Offer, AfC (KL), Sharron Nelson, Deputy Head of Transformation, ICB (SN)

**Apologies:** Ashley Whittaker, Jonathan Rourke, Andrea Ferns

### **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Bev Pass conducted welcome and introductions.

### **2. Parent Carer Forum Update**

BP gave an update on the PCF:

- Kingston PCF were working with Achieving for Children (AfC) colleagues to conduct workshops with parents and carers which will feed into an updated SEND Futures Plan.
- Running six workshops and one final online session
- Also been writing and sending out the Kingston PCF newsletter, and doing regular updates for parents and carers on Facebook.
- The PCF leads have also been writing up grant applications, in addition to trying to increase their reach with parents and carers.

JT also noted that she was going to an event with South West London Parent Carer Forums on June the 14th and can report back on this.

### **3. Participation, Engagement and Co-production update**

RH gave an update:

- Working with a parent to create a summary introduction to SEND for parents that are new.
- Went to Kings Oak School and set up a parent coffee morning there, hoping to build a community around this.
- Gave a 45 minute talk to the Migrant Advocacy Forum with a translator, which included lots of parents from Hong Kong.
- Interviewed and recruited five new SEND Parent Champions.
- Met with Sally Parkinson around the SENDIASS re-commissioning process.
- Working on the Parent Carer Needs Assessment (by law parents are allowed to request a parent carer needs assessment). Claudia Isaby has been working with RH on how this can be improved, this will then be passed onto the panel.

LN queried whether the migrant advocacy service was something anyone could be a part of.

RH noted that the advocacy service take over Kingston Library on Wednesdays, and host talks around areas such advocacy. **Action:** RH to put LN in touch with the organisers of Migrant Advocacy Service.

KL queried RH over whether he uses and signposts to the Family Translation Offer on the Local Offer. RH noted that he does.

BP noted that it was great more parents were signing up to be Parents Champions. Also noted that the Parent Carer Forum (PCF) were under-resourced, and was wondering if a strategic group could form/try to get the steering group to recruit more members.

RH added that one of the Parent Champions' main roles is to tell other parents about the PCF. RH also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the differences are clarified between the SEND Parent Champions and the PCF. Also working with Jennifer Allen on an infographic to show the journey of SEND for new parents. On the Local Offer there is also a 'new to SEND' section for parents, where the PCF are listed as a key resource.

RFB noted that Kingston Hospital was redesigning their paediatric emergency room, and wanted to do this with SEND Parents. **Action:** Anyone interested in being involved in this work to contact Rosie or Rob who will put them on the list.

LN noted that many families had praised the leaflet on useful SEND links with QR codes for families to use.

KL suggested the creation of a series of leaflets similar to this with QR codes on different topics, one for example could be Short Breaks.

BP felt this would be something that families would be interested in, and suggested this could focus on short breaks+, to focus on other groups that families may find useful and want to join, such as Enhancable.

**Action:** KL to link with Jonathan Rorke, and look into what is available and where there is scope for something new.

LN asked if the leaflet could also include links to mainstream offers and the inclusion funding as she often gets asked about these as well at Burlington.

- JT queried where on the Local Offer was there information about summer holiday provision, as she was unable to find this information.
- KL noted that much of this information on mainstream provision will be available on the AfC info page as opposed to the Local Offer. **Action:** KL to ensure that information features on the Local Offer on Short Breaks which signposts families to information on mainstream holiday activities.
- JT also noted that some of the providers listed had prices which were unreasonable, and other providers who have said they cannot have a child with SEND, and felt that more information gathering on providers was needed.
- RFB noted that she had had similar experiences, and that RH had helped her to get the providers to apply for funding in order to gain 1-to-1 support for her child. This was a possibility for other parents, and RFB noted that this was something Parent Champions could signpost to.

**Action:** JT to send CR a list of the providers she contacted.

**Action:** CR to follow up on these points and provide an update to the consortium next meeting.

This led to a wider conversation around whether providers featured on the Local Offer/AfC info page were accessible to children and young people with SEND:

- The issue was raised that currently, there were private providers getting free advertising through AfC for their activities and yet were not inclusive to all children, despite the fact that legally they needed to be inclusive to all children.
- KL noted that when private providers log onto the Local Offer to register their activities and clubs, there is a box where they can detail the SEND provision you have, and not all providers fill in this box. KL added links to advice on [school trips](#) and making [guiding inclusive](#).
- It was agreed that a wider piece of work was needed to look at how to ensure a more robust quality assurance of providers advertised on the Local Offer/AfC website, such as ensuring evidence of inclusive practice for SEND children was mandatory to registration.

**Action:** CR to take this forward as a wider piece of work for Short Breaks, linking with KL and Rob Dembrey in Early Years.

#### 4. Health, Education and Short Breaks update

SN gave an update on Health:

- Community Paediatric Service and Community Nursing Service- currently looking at the specification and identifying gaps
- RH queried whether there was a timeframe for putting these services together.
- Community Paediatric Service - deadline is March 2024. No timeline yet for the Nursing Service.

AC (Q): Is there an overlap between the therapy pathway and the ASC pathway, are these aligning?

SN (A): Rachel will be involved and aligned with this work to ensure they are aligning.

SN provided the following responses to the questions LN asked in the previous meeting:

- SN went back to CAMHS with LNs points, and found that there was not a four year waiting list, and showed that their actual waiting times were on [their website](#).
- SN also noted that she had been asked about the assessment criteria, as young girls were being refused. SN noted that she did raise this with the service, and noted that the assessment criteria was not on their website.
- **Action:** SN to request they put the assessment criteria on their website, and to give a more detailed explanation for parents when they refuse assessments.

It was suggested the next meeting to be a deep dive on CAMHS and mental health assessments, in addition to the CAMHS review cycle, and when they sign off someone back into the community, what signposting and support is available.

**Action:** MF to add this to the forward plan.

**Action:** SN to invite a staff member from CAMHS to the next meeting

LN noted that her son's EHCP has been refused, and in the paperwork that came back it was noted that he will need extra help from TAs and NSA's, however these staff are not available at his school, which means this support wouldn't be possible.

**Action:** LN to have a conversation with AC or Troy Hobbs about her case.

AC also noted that they do not turn down a huge number of EHCPs, and that she was happy to do a deep dive on EHCPs that have been issued.

**Action:** MF to add this to the forward plan.

BP noted that there was currently a task and finish group currently working on a system for enhancing the ordinary available, and ensuring support for children and young people who do not need an EHCP but need additional support, through ensuring there is an amount of money available for this kind of support.

AC noted that on this point, the aim of this project is early identification and assessment, in order to ensure that young people who need more targeted intervention than what is available in schools, can get that support more quickly.

RFB expressed concern that this project may be used as a delaying tactic, for those children who do need EHCPs. BP noted that she is voicing concerns that are being voiced to the task and finish group, and that these were details being ironed out currently by the task and finish group.

KG noted that she doesn't know who to go to to get something new added onto her EHCP to get some kind of outreach in place for her child.

SN noted that a joint approach with social care and health would be needed for this.

**Action:** SN to find a contact for Karen Gale to get a hold of.

**Action:** MF to add school refusal around referral to the deep dive topic.

SN also noted that it would be great to have a parent or carer involved in working with the ICS on work around referrals, noted that she could put someone in contact with Lucile.

AC gave an update on education:

- Looking at recruitment, and have been successfully recruiting to posts in secondary schools.
- Retention challenges with TAs across special schools and mainstream schools. Looking at how to offer a structured recruitment and retention program for these school staff.
- Kelly Harrison (parent) came to the Therapies Oversight Group (TOG) meeting yesterday. AC noted that she was conscious there needed to be more open communication and collaboration with parents around the changes being made in therapies. AfC, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language are currently mapping what they can and can't deliver.  
**Action:** MF to add this to the forward agenda as a possible deep dive.
- What was agreed at the TOG is that there will be a mini review with an options paper based on the data that will be collected, and a decision will be made based on this.
- AC also noted that Now that we are part of the ICS, we are trying to agree if we are able to make a decision about Kingston therapies outside of the other six Local Authorities in South West London. This has been formally escalated as a risk for the SEND Partnership Board.  
**Action:** AC and GS to do a plan and a timeline on this work, and follow up with Kelly Harrison to be part of that group. Noted that there was a face to face meeting on the 27th of June, all providers will be there, and parents are welcome to join.  
**Action:** AC to share the summary data dashboard with the group.

CR gave an update on Short Breaks:

- CR wanted to promote Lifetime Chances funding, which is a small charity that is not having much of an uptake. The charity is for working families across Richmond and Kingston, and the charity can provide funding for a wide range of things for families.
- Making contact with Surrey Choices, a charity that helps young people become more independent.
- TAG - some of their numbers for multisports are low, they have an archery session which is fully inclusive, at St Philip's School.

## 5. Actions from previous meetings

**Previous action:** AC to communicate with Sarah Herbert about when parents can apply for an EHCP.

Update: AC has communicated with Sarah and is doing lunch and learn sessions with SENCOS.

**Previous action:** Communication with parents about thinking ahead.

Update: AC and Andrea Ferns have been in communication, Andrea wants to do a separate piece of work on this, and Anna has met with Rob to think about capacity for moving this forward.

## 6. AOB

JT queried how information from the SEND Futures workshops will be shared more widely with parents.

BP (A): We will pull together everything we have learnt and put this in the newsletter, we will also be pulling together a survey based on responses to the workshops, and there will also be a discussion group which is happening on the evening of the 28th, which is a broader discussion group. It will also feed into the SEND Futures Plan that will be written and go out the council for approval in September.