



Kingston SEND Partnership Board

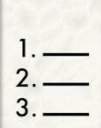

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| | 29 March 2023 10.00am – 12.00 noon |
| | Virtual via Google Meets |



Members

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| Ian Dodds, Chair | ID | Director of Children's Services | Achieving for Children |
| Alison Danks | AD | Associate Director for Health Services | Achieving for Children |
| Anna Chiva | AC | Associate Director for Special Educational Needs | Achieving for Children |
| Ashley Whittaker | AW | Programme Director | Achieving for Children |
| Beverley Pass | BP | Co-Chair | Parent Carer Forum |
| Carmel Brady | CB | Speech & Language Therapist Lead for Children's Services | Your Healthcare CIC |
| Charis Penfold | CP | Director for Education Services | Achieving for Children |
| Iona Lidington | IL | Director of Public Health | Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames |

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| Sally Parkinson | SP | Associate Director for Business Development and Strategic Commissioning | Achieving for Children |
| Stuart Sweeney | SSw | Lay Member (Social Investment Sector) | |
| Andrea Ferns | AF | Designated Clinical Officer for SEND Integrated Care System | Designated Clinical Officer for SEND Integrated Care System |
| Rob Harris | RH | SEND Parent and Carer Engagement Officer, Kingston | Achieving for Children |
| Sean Maher | SM | Headmaster | Richard Challoner School |
| Sheldon Snashall | SS | Associate Director for Pupil Support | Achieving for Children |
| Micheal Griffiths | MG | Participation Officer | Achieving for Children |
| Sue Lear | SL | Deputy Director of Transformation | NHS South West London, SWL Integrated Care System |
| Janice Riley | JR | PA to Ian Dodds (minute taker) | Achieving for Children |
| Apologies | | | |
| Alison Twynam | AT | Director Children's Social Care | Achieving for Children |
| Jonathan Rourke | JR | SENDIASS Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston | SENDIASS |
| Megan Francis-Falkner | MF-F | SEND Policy and Project Coordinator | Achieving for Children |
| Sharon Houlden | SH | Executive Director for Social Care and Health | Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames |
| Cllr Stephanie Archer | SA | Portfolio Holder Children's Services including Education | Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames |
| Georgina Andrews | GA | Head of Practice Learning | Achieving for Children |
| Denise Madden | DM | Deputy Executive Lead Integrated Care System | Deputy Executive Lead Integrated Care System |
| Jonathan Brown | JB | Corporate Head of Service - Learning Disability & Transition | Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames |
| Judith Mobbs | JM | SEND Professional Adviser | Department for Education |
| Sarah Ireland | SI | Director of Corporate and Commercial | Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames |
| Sian Wicks | SW | Non-Executive Director | Achieving for Children |

|  | Minutes | Action  |
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| 1. | <p><i>Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies</i></p> <p><i>A round of introductions were made and apologies were noted.</i></p> | |
| 2. | <p><i>What do we know about the quality of SEND provision in Richmond?</i></p> <p><i>Update from children and young people</i></p> <p><i>AW welcomed Micheal Griffiths as our new Participation Officer, noting that we are delighted to have her in post. We will be hearing from a young person via a video as part of the CME item on the agenda. We are planning a lot of engagement work with children, young people and families in the summer term in relation to updating the SEND Futures Plan as well as reviewing our local area performance against the new framework. As part of our evaluation we will be listening to the voices of children and young people and families.</i></p> <p><i>Micheal noted her main priority initially is to engage with the young people and set up some working groups. This will be her main focus for the first two months and she is also hoping to meet with schools. ID noted it is important for us to understand what young people are saying about our SEND provision.</i></p> <p><i>Update from Parent Carer Forum</i></p> <p><i>BP welcomed Micheal and Andrea, noting it is good to have them on board and she is looking forward to working closely with them. The PCF is running ok, they have received approval for AfC to award the grant that supports coproduction for next year. They are currently working on a new</i></p> | |

governance model. BP went on to say they are looking forward to working with AW and the team on the SEND engagement work in the summer term. They have a plan on how they want to engage with parents and carers and will discuss with AW. This will take most of their time for the next three months. They are still working on the recommissioning working project with SP and RH to ensure coproduction is embedded across the organisation.

BP advised the SENDIASS recommissioning is in the process of being completed. There is some disquiet with parents around the change to service from KIDS to Polaris. The benefits advice was not part of the recommissioning and won't be provided by Polaris. BP also raised a query regarding exactly what is provided in Kingston and what is provided in Richmond. Parents feel there is disparity with Richmond receiving more.

ID responded that we need Polaris to be clear about what they can offer in terms of benefits, ID believes there is a pathway in both boroughs. BP noted there is anxiety amongst parents and they just need to understand where they can now go for benefits advice. ID will task somebody to seek further information and share with BP.

Action: AW to seek clarity on the offer from Polaris and where parents can get benefits advice and share with BP

AW

Performance Dashboard and update report

AW noted the report is not too different to last time as it is still Q3. Changes in the dashboard reflect feedback regarding the layout. We have made some changes based on the feedback received so hopefully this is more helpful.

Headlines

AW noted the new colleagues in ICB, Gavin Spiller and Sharron Nelson. These posts have been vacant since last summer so we are delighted they are now part of the team and looking forward to

working with them. Sharron will lead on Kingston and emotional wellbeing and mental health, Gavin leading on therapy provision.

AW thanked BP for all the work they are doing.

Some good news in terms of phased transfer from primary to secondary in that the number of children not having a place to start year 7 is much lower than previous years. This is a reflection of more proactive work with schools.

The Placement Commissioning team has been in place since April last year and are having a significant impact in relation to spend but also in terms of quality contract monitoring to ensure value for money.

DfE have confirmed that Kingston has done enough to receive all the additional money for the Safety Valve agreement this year. It is performance related so we are very pleased and thank partners for their help with this.

In terms of concerns, the number of children presenting with significant need continues to rise and the year on year increase is 14%. This is not as high as some surrounding boroughs but is up on the previous year. There are also stats in the report from Your Healthcare from the early health survey. The number of parents reporting managing their children's challenging behaviour and young carer responsibilities is increasing which is also a sign of need increasing.

There continues to be significant challenges with recruitment across all areas. These are ongoing issues and it is difficult to see any solutions at the moment. Parents are raising concern that they are not sure who to speak to as there are vacancies in services. This is impacting timeliness on advice and waiting lists for services which remain higher than we would like.

Inflation is still a concern, it is not going down as we would hope and will continue to have significant pressure on our expenditure for the next financial year.

Thank you to those involved in the Task and Finish Group looking at funding mainstream schools. The group includes teachers and SENCOs looking at how we take things forward.

AW referred to the engagement work mentioned earlier. We will be updating the SEND Futures Plan against the new inspection framework. The DfE have now published their improvement plan and there is a link in the report as well as an easy read version. We need to ensure we are reflecting local policy in our plan.

Spring School – the construction company has gone bust which means the site will not now be ready. An alternative site has been located in North Kingston so the school will open as planned in September on this site. The DfE will re-commission another company to complete the build. One positive is that the keys for the North Kingston site will be available from May so there will be more of a transition period available for the young people.

BP noted great news that Spring School will still be able to open as scheduled and thanked everyone who moved quickly to get the solution.

BP noted they were hoping for some legislative change in the new plan but still pleased to be working with AfC to take this forward.

BP went on to say that they do understand the recruitment issues but would like to know what we are doing to communicate the issues with parent and carers and what we are doing to try and resolve or reduce the impact.

ID responded that there have been communications sent to families, for example, in relation to therapies communications have gone out to individual families when they are impacted. However, we haven't communicated with the wider community so that parents/carers can understand the situation and impact. We do therefore need to pick this up and look at how we can communicate these issues more clearly. AW noted the joint letters which were sent out during COVID when we wrote to parents and felt these letters were really well received. ID noted the letter will need to be

inclusive and cover the whole system. It was also agreed that we need to point parents to the rich sources of information available.

Action: AW/RH to work with PCF and write letter to be sent out to parents.

AC noted part of the letter could also review the sources of information as escalation points for families are not always clear.

ID asked what people feel the next deep dive topic should be.

MG noted that she recently spoke with two parents with young people with non-verbal challenges. Parents spoke about the lack of support in local leisure centres. MG wondered if we could look at how we engage young people with lower/non-verbal communication in terms of leisure centre activities. AC responded that there is actually a lot of information available in voluntary sector. There might be a piece of work with local offer on this. AC can share some of the information available.

Action: AC to share information with MG

ID suggested looking at this as part of a wider look at the short break services. It is too soon to do now as we have a new provider but either later this year or early next year. AD suggested another quarter to allow the new provider to bed in.

IL noted that we have made good progress so she would be happy to be part of that item to see how much more inclusive local community groups are.

Feedback on transition activity would be good. We are making good progress but there are still some risky areas that we could look at. Children and young people with an EHCP going into adulthood/Post 16 was agreed as the next focus.

Action: AW to add Children and young people with an EHCP going into adulthood/post 16 as next deep dive item

AW/RH

AC

AW

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| | <p><i>CP suggested an item for the Autumn could be to look at the new SEND inspection Self Evaluation Framework and ensuring all parents are informed and aware of changes. SEND transformation plan revisit once it has been revised</i></p> | |
| <p>3.</p> | <p><i>What is the partnership doing to drive improvement</i></p> <p><i>Deep dive into CME/Alternative provision</i></p> <p><i>SS shared the presentation which was circulated with the agenda.</i></p> <p><i>SS noted that both of these areas have been in the press recently. CME has had a lot of updated guidance and is very much in the public eye currently. Alternative provision was linked to off rolling and fears that schools were moving children on because they didn't know what to do with them and children being placed with unregulated provisions. Alternative provision is also a large part of the new inspection framework.</i></p> <p><i>SS clarified that children on roll but not attending school do not come under the term of CME.</i></p> <p><i>SS ran through our current offer. The inclusion charter and toolkit is there to help schools in the hope to better equip them in dealing with these situations. There is a focus on how mainstream schools can hold on to children and how we can support them with doing this. Schools have a strong offer on attendance but there is an increase in high level complexities so our strategy and resources make use of voluntary sector to help address these issues. We have a Tier 3 CAMHS Clinician seconded for half a day of week to our team which is proving to be really useful.</i></p> <p><i>We do have a lot of offers available for children and young people who are too unwell to attend, all of which are designed to reintegrate children and young people back into school. Any alternative provision should be an intervention and not a destination. Our aim is to try to help schools be better equipped and supported to meet children and young people's needs. We are continually working on this as we are not where we would like to be.</i></p> | |

We are not always informed when a child is admitted to hospital unless it is a private provider. We are continuing to try and challenge this.

We do feel we have a strong offer with a good quality assurance process. There are various boards where we report back various elements of the service. We are developing an Alternative Provision strategy and working with partners on this. In addition we have an Educational Psychologist and a Tier 2 Clinician working on children beyond the schools reach, i.e. those not leaving the house.

Guidance is outdated and presents challenges in terms of trying to provide a graduated response.

We are using the DfE attendance pilot which 90% of schools are signed up to to help us pick up high levels of absence.

SS referred to a video of a young person sharing her experience at Anstee bridge.

Action: Video to be shared, confidentially (please note the video is not for sharing further)

SM noted there is a lot of work taking place, adding that primary colleagues are very pleased with the work going on but noted there are still significant challenges with regard to young people and extra provision. SM noted a problem being raised around ASD diagnosis of girls and presenting earlier than usual, this is a particular challenge with Coombe, Tolworth and Holy Cross. This is connected to the work SS is doing but budgets are stretched so there is a lack of resource or ability to buy into provision in schools.

CP responded that we have linked in to the profile of girls SM is referring to. Educational Psychologists are working with four schools, working with girls who have come through that process to hear about their experience of the process. We will share the information more widely and this should give us a bit of an idea of what is missing in the offer and what would help moving forward. Not sure this will bring solutions but should bring ideas of how we can manage better.

Action Early identification of ASD and ADHD to be on a future agenda.

JR

AW

CB suggested sharing the information more widely. The system seems confused around what support to access and where from in relation to selective autism and anxiety about accessing school, and the collective offer we have got. CP responded that she totally agrees, it is not just an education response that is needed it is much broader across the system. We are hoping to involve other colleagues in the 'what next' to look at processes to help earlier identification and intervention. CB also asked where it fits with autism work that has been going on. AD responded there is a steering group this afternoon so it would be good to know the next steps. SL agreed this conversation can be had at the steering group this afternoon. CP noted Jo Steer has been tasked with linking in with Rachel Oostra to make the connection with the work she is doing.

SS responded to SSw question regarding the number of children going to school but not getting into lessons. There is no data as schools only provide attendance based on morning and afternoon attendance. We do however know that some young people find attending lessons a challenge so are going to the inclusion spaces and schools are trying to support them there and work with them to get them back into the lessons. Our schools are trying really hard to deal with this.

SS shared a Jamboard and asked all members of the meeting to contribute with thoughts and suggestions on the Jamboard.

ID noted there are a number of categories highlighted in the comments. CP agreed this is not just about the child and young person, it is very much a community issue with systemic family input needed. There are some good ideas coming up on the Jamboard and we will consider these going forward. Some of the work we want to take forward is young person, family and school focused.

Highlights from the Jamboard:

- Information and resource for families
- Broader offer - what can we wrap around child and family to support them

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at developing community hubs to include this piece of thinking. <p>CP added that we want to take forward the focus from secondary schools to look at better engaging key stage 4 young people so that the curriculum offer is appropriate and engaging. As noted by BP a lot of the offer doesn't work for all so we need to make it more adaptive. At key stage 5 transition we also need to look at earlier interventions.</p> <p>ID added looping in of emotional health support and CAMHs so they are threaded through everything we do. CP agreed health support is key to aid their success.</p> <p>ID noted these ideas will be picked up as part of the alternative provision work. Subgroups are working on this and we will discuss further at a future meeting.</p> <p>AW noted PAC (Proactive Anticipatory Care Model) which has been rolled out in the integrated care system. It has been successful and there are a lot of concepts in there that are referred to in the notes on the Jamboard. Please see the link below to further information:</p> <p>https://www.southwestlondonics.org.uk/local-stories/patients-at-the-heart-of-pac/</p> <p>ID noted he would also like annual reviews to come back to next meeting in relation to agreed actions in the last meeting.</p> <p>Action: AW to add annual reviews to the agenda for the May meeting</p> | AW |
| 4. | <p>Other updates</p> <p>Key service updates</p> <p>BP noted this is a really important piece of work and they are receiving a lot of feedback. BP asked Andrea Ferns what her priorities are for the two days a week in terms of moving forward. AF responded that she is currently fact finding and her main priorities at the moment are working on</p> | |

safeguarding concerns, tribunals, WSOA and inspection areas. AF added that she would like to meet with the PCF in both Kingston and Richmond and develop an action log. AF would welcome any feedback on what people feel are the priorities. AF added that she is also working for NHS England so is aware of national issues. AF noted she is still very early days but will be able to update on priorities once she has been able to find out more information. BP noted lots of issues around therapies and diagnosis. AF reassured she is working very closely with GS and will escalate issues. SL noted they are delighted to have AF on board and doesn't want to detract from the wealth of experience she brings as well as the link into the national team. SL added in terms of remaining three days, we are struggling with recruitment but trying to look at a different model to consider an assistant to support AF on the days that she is not working. SL asked people not to email AF on her personal email address regarding specific cases. Generic email address should be used - AF shared the generic email address.

ID noted all health providers in the system to be encouraged to engage with the provision.

Kingston SEND Partnership Board will next meet on: 24 May 2023 10.00am

NB. Electronic invites have been sent.