



## Kingston SEND Partnership Board

	Wednesday 24 May 2023, 10-12pm
	Virtual via Google Meets

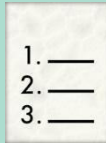



## Members

Ian Dodds, Chair	<b>ID</b>	Director of Children's Services	Achieving for Children
Alison Danks	<b>AD</b>	Associate Director for Health Services	Achieving for Children
Alison Twynam	<b>AT</b>	Director Children's Social Care	Achieving for Children
Andrea Ferns	<b>AF</b>	Designated Clinical Officer SEND (Kingston and Richmond)	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System
Anna Chiva	<b>AC</b>	Associate Director for Special Educational Needs	Achieving for Children
Ashley Whittaker	<b>AW</b>	Programme Director	Achieving for Children

Beverley Pass	<b>BP</b>	Co-Chair	Parent Carer Forum
Carlene Liverpool	<b>CL</b>	Maximising Independence Programme Manager	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Carmel Brady	<b>CB</b>	Speech & Language Therapist Lead for Children's Services	Your Healthcare CIC
Charis Penfold	<b>CP</b>	Director for Education Services	Achieving for Children
Emma Knapp	<b>EK</b>	Senior Transition Co-ordinator Kingston Community Learning Disability Team	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Gavin Spiller		Deputy Head of Transformation - Children (Kingston and Richmond)	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System
Georgina Andrews	<b>GA</b>	Head of Practice Learning	Achieving for Children
Jonathan Rourke	<b>JR</b>	SENDIASS Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston	SENDIASS
Megan Francis-Falkner	<b>MF-F</b>	SEND Policy and Project Officer	Achieving for Children
Micheal Griffiths	<b>MG</b>	SEND Participation Team Lead	Achieving for Children
Rachel Lukwago	<b>RL</b>	Team Manager • Adult Social Care & Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sally Parkinson	<b>SP</b>	Associate Director for Business Development and Strategic Commissioning	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)	
Troy Hobbs	<b>TH</b>	Special Educational Needs Service Manager	Achieving for Children
<b>Apologies</b>			
Alison Stewart	<b>AS</b>	Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System
Iona Lidington	<b>IL</b>	Director of Public Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Judith Mobbs	<b>JM</b>	SEND Professional Adviser	Department for Education
Julie Percival	<b>JP</b>	Assistant Principal – Curriculum & High Needs	South Thames College Group
Karen Long	<b>KL</b>	Service Lead, Frontline Services	Your Healthcare
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
Sally Parkinson	<b>SP</b>	Associate Director for Business Development and Strategic Commissioning	Achieving for Children
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	<b>SH</b>	Executive Director for Social Care and Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Sharron Nelson	<b>SN</b>	Deputy Head of Transformation - Children (Kingston and Richmond)	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System
Sian Wicks	<b>SW</b>	Non-Executive Director	Achieving for Children
Sue Lear	<b>SL</b>	Deputy Director of Transformation	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System

 <b>Minutes</b>		<b>Action</b> 
1.	<p><b><i>Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies</i></b></p> <p>ID welcomed the Board, introductions were made and apologies noted.</p>	
<p><b><i>What do we know about the quality of SEND provision in Kingston?</i></b></p>		
2.	<p><b><i>Update from children and young people</i></b></p> <p><b>MG</b> noted the following.</p> <p>SEND Forum is being held on the 1 June, this is the first one since MG has been in post. It will be an opportunity for young people to understand more about what is involved in participation and also join the membership group. It will also give them the chance to learn about, and become involved in, the Recruits Crew Panel.</p> <p>There is now a group of young people who are attending a number of strategy meetings for Alternative Provision, led by Sheldon Snashall. There are x3 young people, one representing secondary schools, one for Post 16. The recruitment and finance representative is still to be agreed.</p>	

The Recruits Crew Panel. **MG** is encouraging all teams who have direct engagement with children and young people to reach out and engage with the panel.

*Opinions and views of young people shared recently.*

The experiences of young people who have an EHCP and how they felt about the EHCP process. Overall, they felt that the process worked well, when they were younger they felt that the process was complex and didn't understand how it would help them, but they now have a better and clearer understanding.

Feedback regarding Annual Reviews. Overall, now that they are older and they have a better understanding of the process they felt that it works well.

Feedback regarding Health. Some young people experienced anxieties around managing their health, they did feel that GPs were helpful, but they feel nervous about taking ownership of managing their own health issues. **AT** asked what is being done to explore pathways and what can be done to support these young people, are we working with health colleagues to take this forward. **AF** suggested meeting **MG** separately to help understand the issues the young people are experiencing

Social Care Feedback. The feedback was limited, but those who had direct contact with a social worker did feel that they were being listened to and that they were being heard.

**MG** explained that the feedback was limited as it is now exam time and the young people were unavailable. Moving forward **MG** has time booked in with schools and hopes there will be more feedback available at future boards.

<p>3.</p>	<p><b><i>Update from Parent Carer Forum</i></b></p> <p>BP noted the following.</p> <p>Parents are worried about applying for Disability Living Allowance and the loss of benefits, so this has been a recent focus.</p> <p>While the SEND Futures Plan is being refreshed 7 focus groups / workshops, held in consultation and co-production with AfC, are being held to try and reach the wider SEND Community. This is their priority across the summer term and will help to establish parent’s views and will be validated via a survey. This will help with refreshing the plan, which is due to go to the Council in September 2023. This is the first time for this type of engagement and new voices are being heard, which is positive.</p> <p>The cost of living remains a worry for parents, and together with the lack of therapies, these are the key concerns</p> <p>CLlr Archer noted her thanks to BP and the PCF and will look forward to hearing the feedback from the focus groups.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><i>Performance Dashboard and Update Report</i></b></p> <p><b><i>What is working well</i></b> – AW noted that engagement with families is going well and also with young people now that MG has joined. The workshops are being well attended and parents are finding them useful and there will be a survey after half term. Feedback from parents also included comments around health, e.g. what it’s like attending Kingston hospital with a child with autism, there have been improvements, but there are still staff who are not equipped to assist a child with autism or additional needs. Feedback regarding GPs is varied, some are very strong in their support and understanding, but there are still weak areas. More information is coming through from parents and from a more diverse community, which is helpful. Statutory partners supplying information to families is going well and in terms of the SEND Register, there are now 1,100</p>	

	<p>families signed up, and split evenly between those with and without an EHC plan. Parents attending the workshops have expressed how useful the SEND Register is and how helpful Karen Lowry, who manages the Local Offer, is in supplying information to the SEND Community. Social Care colleagues, the timeliness of the advice they are giving, which is part of the statutory process, is back on track and improving. <b>AW</b> noted that we currently do not have a dedicated Social Care Officer in SEND and strong performance has still been maintained.</p> <p><b>What is not working well</b> – <b>AW</b> noted that there is nothing new to report, but there are some persistent issues that are continuing, not just in Kingston, but nationally. There continues to be an increase in needs in children and young people and the pressure on services and waiting times for therapies treatment is concerning. Staff recruitment and retention continues to be a challenge across all organisations. Inflation continues to cause issues with our placement costs, providers have no option but to pass the cost on, this will continue to cause challenges in finance.</p>	
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***What is the Partnership doing to drive improvement?***

<p>5.</p>	<p><b><i>Transitions to Adult Services</i></b></p> <p><b>AC</b> and <b>EK</b> gave a presentation on preparing for adulthood and transitions to adult services.</p> <p><b>ID</b> expressed his thanks for such a clear presentation and for all the work that has been undertaken.</p> <p><b>SS</b> asked how the transition from CAMHS into adult mental health is and how clear is the new landscape on T Level qualifications, it seems bewildering from the outside, but key educational pathway.</p> <p><b>EK</b> explained that Iain Richmond is the Adult Social Care lead for Mental Health Services and that there is a protocol in place. Even though this sits outside Adult Social Care, it is an important pathway. One gap is engagement from CAHMS, the team are working to improve engagement,</p>	
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which will create a better outcome for young people. There are other gaps including children who are looked after, at times they move between boroughs and there are changes and gaps in services.

**AC** noted that if partners are not engaging, then it will need to be escalated back to the board, currently there are some concerns. **AC** explained that there is a focus on developing vocational pathways, working with schools to map out pathways, also linking in with colleges and Alternative Provisions. Tom Brooke from The Kingston Academy is helping to lead this, together with AfC, looking at the alternative curriculum, future employment, apprenticeships and internships. There are also discussions around piloting a Passport to Work with two of our schools, which looks at celebrating young people's abilities rather than focussing on GCSE. **ID** noted that it is complex, but we are bringing clarity to the vocational pathways for young people. **CP** commented that there are exciting developments and we are very aware of trends and needs of young people coming through, but asked where is the decision about finance, commissioning and the provision needed locally to meet identified need is being held locally. After discussion it was agreed that **AC** will discuss with the RBK Employment and Skills Board, who review all the data coming through so that this can feed into commissioners. **ID** agreed to talk to Sean Gillen, Corporate Head of Employment, Skills and Enterprise about how to take this forward.

**AC** noted the challenge in engaging with the community sector / voluntary groups regarding young people and transitions and how could this be taken forward. **ID** noted that this could be taken forward with Kingston Voluntary Action, who we commission support from for children and young people. **ID** will share their details with **AC**.

**AW** noted Charlotte Hawks, Lead Service Development Officer - Community Engagement, Adult Social Care & Health - RBK, who he had met recently and suggested that it would be helpful to contact **CH** who would be able to help with engagement. Linking with the Kingston All Age Learning Disability Board would also be helpful. Activities that are already taking place, which are focussed on engaging with young people are, Beaconsfield Centre event on 22 June, everyone is welcome to attend. The workshop on 25 May, currently being held with the PCF, is specifically for

Post 16 and will be gathering information from parents regarding transitions. The workshop on 8 June is around Complex Needs. If anyone would like to attend either event please let [ashley.whittaker@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:ashley.whittaker@achievingforchildren.org.uk) know.

**Cllr Archer** suggested linking with FUSEBOX and also noted the conversations with recruitment agencies, some of whom attend the Better Futures event, this would be another way of engaging with local community to secure employment for young people.

### *Impact of previous deep dives*

#### 6. Annual Review Process (from January 2023)

**TH, AD and CB** gave a presentation.

**CB** gave a verbal update, based on **CB** knowledge and not from work on a deep dive. For primary schools, consultations are being completed with all schools throughout the year and as part of the planning with SENCos the Annual Review is part of this process and considered a priority. In terms of capacity and balancing Annual Reviews and an EHCP Assessment, the assessment would take priority. In special schools and specialist resource provisions, which are currently covered by therapists, Annual Reviews would be part of this process. Where it is working well is where there are strong relationships, collaboration and a good culture, where it is working less well is where it is contrary to those factors. **CB** asked, and would like to action, where schools are reporting not receiving advice in a timely manner for annual reviews, it would be helpful to have the specificities so that any issues can be resolved. **TH** agreed to provide this information.

**JR** noted that he agreed the strict deadlines can be frustrating, especially when plans have to be finalised just before all the evidence is gathered together.



**Cllr Archer** asked about communication with families and keeping them informed of delays, how is this achieved. **TH** noted that there has been an increase in the frequency of communication to our families, especially when we know there will be a delay.

**AW** noted the point about the increased response rate to surveys by parents and carers in regard to Annual Reviews and how this has been helpful in understanding their views. This has been helped by the work of the digital team who have revamped the surveys.

**CP** noted the increase in EHCP needs assessment requests and that after its completion, each new plan becomes part of the statutory annual review activity. The current volume of need and challenge for all professionals to complete their part in the statutory deadline, both for Annual Reviews and new assessments requests, is significant at the moment, together with the issues with recruitment across all services. Schools would probably agree that the needs are very high and any progress in Annual Reviews is a testament to everyone who is involved. **CP** thanked the team for managing significant statutory expectations in a difficult context.

**Cllr Archer** asked if there is an update about CAMHS waiting lists and the support that children and young people need. **CP** noted that it is an area for development locally in terms of CAMHS contributions to new needs assessments, for Annual Reviews and the tribunal process. Capacity is also a challenge and significant in Tier 3. In terms of health advice for new assessments and Annual Reviews, for those who work in the Mental Health area where there is an increasing need in volume, work is being done to support them and help increase their confidence. **AF** agreed that this is an area for development as the information is not being received in a timely manner. The transformation leads will be working with teams to improve this area as a matter of urgency. **AF** noted that the increase in demand for mental health services is a national issue. **ID** noted that it is an issue for all of the boroughs in South West London ICB, there is a SEND Summit in June and it is on the agenda and will look at what can be done collectively for CAMHS providers.

## Other updates

### 7. *Any key service updates*

AF noted that she had met with the PCF and will now have regular meetings to discuss key issues and provide support and will be able to provide an update at this Board moving forward.

RL highlighted the current interim capacity arrangements and what the plan is going forward as the contracts have approached over half of their life span. RL requested that given the impact of what has been done so far on practice and the significant additional pressure on teams, could the board review capacity to ensure sustainability of all the hard work/achievements. Now we have the successes we need to have a clear plan of how we continue the practice long term.

JR noted his new contact details New SENDIASS Contact details = [info@rksendiass.co.uk](mailto:info@rksendiass.co.uk) and Telephone 0808 164 5527.

CB wanted to celebrate and share good practice. Given all the challenges in the system, there was a project running in the last year where the therapists in Richmond and the Yourhealthcare therapists collaborated to provide a training programme to schools, AfC were very supportive. CB has received the results and the project was very successful and the therapists felt that it was a good example of collaboration, using resources effectively and had a real impact. They will be continuing with the project again this year. CB felt that it was important to share good practice.

### 8. *Forward Plan*

Items for discussion at future Boards.

Mental Health Services, Transition to Secondary Schools, Holistic Outcomes.

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

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

19 July 2023 at 10-12pm

27 September 2023 at 10-12pm

29 November 2023 at 10-12pm