



Kingston SEND Partnership Board

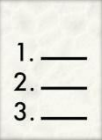

	<p>Wednesday 19 July 2023, 10-12pm</p>
	<p>Virtual via Google Meets</p>



Members

Ian Dodds, Chair	ID	Director of Children's Services	Achieving for Children
Alison Danks	AD	Associate Director for Health Services	Achieving for Children
Alison Twynam	AT	Director Children's Social Care	Achieving for Children
Andrea Ferns	AF	Designated Clinical Officer SEND (Kingston and Richmond)	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System
Anna Chiva	AC	Associate Director for Special Educational Needs	Achieving for Children
Beverley Pass	BP	Co-Chair	Parent Carer Forum

Charis Penfold	CP	Director for Education Services	Achieving for Children
Gavin Spiller		Deputy Head of Transformation - Children (Kingston and Richmond)	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System
Iona Lidington	IL	Director of Public Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Jonathan Rourke	JR	SENDIASS Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston	SENDIASS
Megan Francis-Falkner	MF-F	SEND Policy and Project Officer	Achieving for Children
Micheal Griffiths	MG	SEND Participation Team Lead	Achieving for Children
Sally Parkinson	SP	Associate Director for Business Development and Strategic Commissioning	Achieving for Children
Sam Morrison	SM	Acting Director of Adult Social Care	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sheldon Snashall	ShelS	Associate Director for Pupil Support	Achieving for Children
Cllr Stephanie Archer	SA	Portfolio Holder Children's Services including Education	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Stuart Sweeney	SS	Lay Member (Social Investment Sector)	
Rob Harris	RH	SEND Parent and Carer Engagement Officer, Kingston	Achieving for Children
Troy Hobbs	TH	Special Educational Needs Service Manager	Achieving for Children
Apologies			
Ashley Whittaker	AW	Programme Director	Achieving for Children
Carmel Brady	CB	Speech & Language Therapist Lead for Children's Services	Your Healthcare CIC
Georgina Andrews	GA	Head of Practice Learning	Achieving for Children
Judith Mobbs	JM	SEND Professional Adviser	Department for Education
Julie Percival	JP	Assistant Principal - Curriculum & High Needs	South Thames College Group
Karen Long	KL	Service Lead, Frontline Services	Your Healthcare
Leigh Edser	LE	Principal	Dysart School
Nikki Craig	NC	Head of HR, Corporate Projects and IT	Achieving for Children
Peter Mayhew-Smith	PMS	Group Principal and CEO	South Thames Colleges Group
Rachel Nye	RN	Headteacher	Tolworth Infant and Junior School
Cllr Sabah Hamed	SH	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sarah Ireland	SI	Director of Corporate and Commercial	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sean Maher	SM	Headmaster	Richard Challoner School
Sharon Houlden	SH	Executive Director for Social Care and Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sharron Nelson	SN	Deputy Head of Transformation - Children (Kingston and Richmond)	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System
Sian Wicks	SW	Non-Executive Director	Achieving for Children
Sue Lear	SL	Deputy Director of Transformation	NHS South West London, South West London Integrated Care System

 Minutes	Action 
<p>1. <i>Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies</i></p> <p>ID welcomed the Board, introductions were made and apologies noted.</p>	
<p><i>What do we know about the quality of SEND provision in Kingston?</i></p>	
<p>2. <i>Update from children and young people</i></p> <p>MG noted the following.</p> <p><i>Opinions and views of young people shared recently.</i></p> <p>Education – Feedback was positive, young people said they felt supported and often empowered by the staff, which helped with confidence and they enjoyed attending their provision.</p> <p>Health – Some young people said they felt anxious about GP / health appointments. MG / AF will be meeting separately to discuss the issues the young people are experiencing.</p> <p>Social Care – Those who had direct contact with a social worker did feel that they were supportive, but many felt that social workers could be more involved.</p> <p>MG confirmed that the view of the young people will be taken forward and will be part of the SEND Futures Review and that in future young people will be attending Board meetings. The</p>	

	<p>Recruits Crew Panels are going well and MG encouraged all teams who have direct engagement with children and young people to reach out and engage with the panel.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Update from Parent Carer Forum</p> <p>BP noted the following.</p> <p>Six focus groups are now being held, which include Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Transitions. Key themes from the feedback have been used in a short survey which parents will validate. The feedback from the focus groups and the short survey will be used to create a survey to distribute to a wider group of parents and the feedback will be used to identify priorities for the SEND Futures Plan.</p> <p>Headlines – Training and awareness regarding Health Visitors and nursery staff and their knowledge of rare diseases and complex needs, although health are sympathetic and supportive, it doesn't always lead to the right outcome and long waiting times for therapies is still a concern for parents. Education and SEND Support, the support is not consistent across all provisions. There was mixed feedback regarding EHCP, some found the process straightforward, others more complex, feedback suggested training around children's rights around education and health as not everyone has access to a SENDCo. Feedback regarding Transitions was mixed, transitions from primary to secondary works well when schools work together. Social Care, parents felt that Family Support wasn't always available. Benefits advice, feedback from parents identified the need for a better process to navigate the benefits system. Some parents are still having issues with the Blue Badge process, ID noted that AW is working with Kingston council and the SEND team to try and ease the process.</p> <p>SM asked about the cohort who are responding. BP explained those responding are from a broad range for ages and needs and did include some hard to reach families.</p>	

4. ***Performance Dashboard and Update Report***

MFF noted that the data reporting is for Q4 Jan–March 2023, this is due to the proximity of this meeting to the end of Q1. Q1 will be reported at the September Board.

Changes to note are, Annual Reviews reporting is now cumulative not quarterly. There are some gaps e.g. CAMHS T2 data was unavailable.

MFF noted the National SEND2 data and highlighted the total number of EHCP across England in 2021/22 rose by 9% in comparison from March 2021 to March 2022 the number of EHCPs maintained in Kingston rose by 8.8%. In addition the number of requests for an EHCP Needs Assessment rose by 23% across England and was the same for Kingston for the same period in 2021/22. The rate of EHCP plans issued in 20 weeks has decreased across England from 60% to 51%. Kingston was at 61% for the same period and demonstrates the pressure in Kingston and they are experiencing the same pressures as other LAs across England.

MFF noted that the SEND Futures Plan will be updated during the summer and autumn term. There will be a summary report of all the engagement work that has been taking place and will be brought to this Board once it has been completed. **MFF** thanked the PCF for their work with the workshops, which they hosted in partnership with AfC. There are currently live surveys on the Local Offer, one for Parents and Carers, one for Young People and one for Practitioners, which are requesting information across Education, Health and Social Care, this will all be included in the SEND Futures Plan.

SS asked about CAMHS T2 data and the rise in terms of both receiving and waiting for therapies. **CP** noted that staffing challenges continue and sadly the situation is not set to improve and we are unable to say there will be a reduction. Work continues with the virtual waiting room check-ins with children and families and the feedback is that the process is helpful.

IL noted that this has been an ongoing concern both at this Board and at the Kingston Place Partnership Committee, a joint meeting with the NHS, is anything being done in terms of escalating this issue, are we being listened to and is there engagement from NHS colleagues to try and resolve the situation. **ID** noted that there is disparity in the provision across South West London and our model is different to other local authorities. AfC and South West London St George's (SWLSG) are jointly responsible for some parts of the model and have commissioned a review of the Mental Health Provision across Kingston and Richmond to assess the level of investment and to also look at ways to reduce the waiting times. There will not be a significant level of investment due to current financial challenges, and it is hoped that the review will look at funding across all SWL boroughs, and addressing this, could have an impact on other local authorities. The review is being undertaken by an external consultant, a clinician, and will be completed during the autumn.

CP noted the work of the Mental Health School Teams. The Mental Health Schools Team are a very strong universal resource, which was not available 2-3 years ago with expertise that works well alongside school colleagues. There is now coverage across all Kingston Primary and Special Schools.

AT asked about % of fixed term and permanent exclusions that relate to a child or young person with SEND and how many of these children are open to Social Care and what is being done to address this. **ShelS** noted for those young people open to Social Care (Sep 2022 - July 10 2023) both boroughs: 14% of those people suspended were open to CSCS at the time of their suspension. 25% of permanent exclusions (4/16 to give context). Broken down to those young people with SEND - 8% suspended and 6% permanent exclusion.

CP updated the Board about the Kingston Schools Forum SEND High Needs Sub Group, which is a group of headteachers and SENCOs who are looking at different ways of funding and support for SEND children earlier rather than the EHCP route. This is one area of good practice that was highlighted by the DfE. There is a Task and Finish Group who shared a possible model for Kingston to pilot, and is being followed up by a survey consultation for all schools to complete and possibly

agree if the model should be used as a pilot, which would mean releasing funding for schools and SENDCo to access pre EHCP in a more timely way. It will be a complex piece of work and there will be an update on feedback and next steps, if agreed, at the September Board.

What is the Partnership doing to drive improvement?

5. *SEND Inclusion with specific regard to transitions from primary to secondary*

SheLS and TH presented the transitions from primary to secondary school for those young people at SEND Support and for young people with EHCPs.

BP noted her concern around the terminology used in the presentation, TH noted the point.

RH noted that some parents are having issues with the process and there does seem to be a disconnect between EHCPs and SEND Support in the secondary transition process. Those with an EHCP seem to receive support, while those with SEND Support do not receive the same level of support and this might be the reason for the push for an EHCP in the later years of primary. There is a feeling amongst parents that EHCP children are a priority.

JR noted that Primary SENCOs would welcome the idea of revisiting outcomes for year 9 once the children are in secondary school. Inclusion in schools, this leads to a wider question around funding for Schools Forum, schools should be rewarded for being inclusive, but some schools feel penalised as they need to find the funding. JR noted feedback from parents included concerns around some schools saying they cannot currently cope with SEND children, which may link to the appropriateness of the EHCP route to access support. ID explained that schools should automatically be inclusive and we need to work with them to achieve this and perhaps looking at the inspection framework around schools will help.

BP suggested that clearer guidance, open days and perhaps a directory of what each school offers could help parents and young people when deciding on which school to apply for. ID noted that a

description on the Local Offer of mainstream schools and being clear about what they offer would be helpful and also open events at schools, parents would then see and know if it was the appropriate setting for their child. **ShelS** noted that the Ordinarily Available offer is available for parents to access on the Local Offer, there is also SEND information available and perhaps we need to look at making this more accessible to parents. **AC** noted that the Board needs to agree tangible next steps, we need to make changes and make a difference and hold each other to account and suggested discussing at a future Board. **TH** suggested taking this forward in Workstream Five, to include primary and secondary head teachers, and put a proposal forward with suggested ideas and explore options and bring back the proposal to this Board. **TH** also explained that it would be useful to have EHCP open days and this could be part of the proposal. **TH** suggested exploring the possibility of amending EHCP in Year 7, taking into account the work being undertaken in the Therapy Review, and capacity needs to be considered, currently this cannot be achieved unless we commission services differently. **AD** suggested looking at schools and best practice regarding transitions, can we not explore what they did that was good and worked well and share this across the borough. **JR** noted that in the autumn term he will be meeting with parents of Year 5 children, who are about to go through the transition process, to help guide them through the process.

In summary, we are going to explore EHCP open days in schools, working with Heads and SENDCos to make this happen. Look at the local offer for mainstream schools to help with the Year 5 Annual Reviews and clearly describe the offer for mainstream or special schools. Amending the EHCP in Year 7. **AC** wanted to be clear that this is about inclusion and not about EHCP and transitions, this is about supporting inclusive practice. **CP** noted that at the secondary headteacher collaboration meeting in the autumn term it is planned to revisit the consultations that schools receive which they feel unable to support, and the challenges and barriers that they face and help them resolve some of the barriers.

Impact of previous deep dives

6. *Speech and Language Therapy Options*

GS presented the Speech and Language Therapy Options paper previously distributed.

ID summarised options which were outlined, closing the waiting list to new referrals, not being involved in tribunal work, spot commissioning moving to the provider, ceasing provision when a family has a GP outside the borough and a digital option for self-support. All of these are difficult to take forward.

AC suggested, thinking about SEND Support, that as a Board we need to look at what we should be doing ethically and look at options and implications. SM noted that it would be helpful to look at some parts in more detail in terms of impact and principles and acceptability of each of the proposals. SM also pointed out that we are not the only borough facing this challenge, it would be helpful to look at other boroughs in a similar situation and see what they are doing to remedy the situation. RH offered to assist with communicating and liaising with parents. CP explained that although it is going to be extremely difficult, we do need to work creatively across the local area. BP noted that it is an unhappy situation and a challenge for everyone and we need to proactively look at what can be done and how we can use the resources we have to maximum effect.

Other updates

7. *Any key service updates*

No items noted

8.	<i>Forward Plan</i> Items for discussion at future Boards. Priorities from the SEND Futures Report, Mental Health Services, Holistic Outcomes.	
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KINGSTON SEND Partnership Board will next meet on:
NB. Electronic invites have been sent.
27 September 2023 at 10-12pm
29 November 2023 at 10-12pm