



## Richmond SEND Partnership Board

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|  | 27 March 2023 9.30am – 11.30am |
|  | Virtual via Google Meets       |

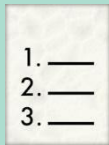



## Members

|                  |           |                                                                     |                                        |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Ian Dodds        | <b>ID</b> | Director of Children's Services                                     | Achieving for Children                 |
| Penny Frost      | <b>PF</b> | Chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee            | Richmond Council                       |
| Philip Moshi     | <b>PM</b> | Trustee                                                             | Richmond Mencap                        |
| Lucy Mayor       | <b>LM</b> | Senior SEND Case Lead London Regions Group                          | Department for Education               |
| Sheldon Snashall | <b>SS</b> | Associate Director for Pupil Support                                | Achieving for Children                 |
| Kirsty Hogg      | <b>KH</b> | Commissioning Support Lead                                          | Richmond Council                       |
| Tracey Mabbs     | <b>TM</b> | Early Years Provider representative                                 | The Kings Road Nursery                 |
| Heather Mathew   | <b>HM</b> | Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Strategic Lead Manager | Richmond Council for Voluntary Service |

|                       |             |                                                                                        |                                                    |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Ashley Whittaker      | <b>AW</b>   | Programme Director                                                                     | Achieving for Children                             |
| Charis Penfold        | <b>CP</b>   | Director of Education Services                                                         | Achieving for Children                             |
| Claire Schneider      | <b>CS</b>   | Clinical Service Manager for Paediatric Therapies                                      | Hounslow & Richmond Community Healthcare           |
| Nathan Nagaiah        | <b>NN</b>   | Non-Executive Board Member                                                             | Achieving for Children                             |
| Claire Richmond       | <b>CR</b>   | Chair                                                                                  | Richmond Parent Carer Forum                        |
| Sara Doyle            | <b>SD</b>   | Associate Director for Identification and Assessment                                   | Achieving for Children                             |
| Kelly Dooley          | <b>KD</b>   | Headteacher                                                                            | The Richmond upon Thames School                    |
| Sue Lear              | <b>SL</b>   | Deputy Director of Transformation                                                      | NHS South West London Integrated Care System       |
| Gavin Spiller         | <b>GS</b>   | Deputy Head of Transformation,<br>Children                                             | Integrated Care Board                              |
| Sue Hollins           | <b>SH</b>   | Children's Team Manager                                                                | Ruils                                              |
| Micheal Griffiths     | <b>MG</b>   | Participation Officer                                                                  | Achieving for Children                             |
| Farah Ahmad           | <b>FA</b>   | SEND Parent Carer Engagement Officer                                                   | Achieving for Children                             |
| Toni Whitehouse       | <b>TW</b>   | Head of School<br>Health & Social Care, Early Years, Supported & Inclusive<br>Learning | Richmond upon Thames College                       |
| Janice Riley          | <b>JR</b>   | PA to Ian Dodds (minute taker)                                                         | Achieving for Children                             |
| <b>Apologies</b>      |             |                                                                                        |                                                    |
| Alison Twynam         | <b>AT</b>   | Director of Children's Social Care                                                     | Achieving for Children                             |
| Natalie Douglas       | <b>ND</b>   | Deputy Director Clinical Services                                                      | South West London CCG                              |
| Laura Turner          | <b>LT</b>   | Mencap                                                                                 | Voluntary Sector                                   |
| Anna Chiva            | <b>AC</b>   | Associate Director of Special Educational Needs                                        | Achieving for Children                             |
| Ivan Pryce            | <b>IP</b>   | Chief Executive, Auriga Academy Trust & Headteacher                                    | Strathmore School                                  |
| 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                             |
| Anna Sadler           | <b>AS</b>   | Achieving for Children Board Member                                                    | Richmond Council                                   |
| Minta Townshend       | <b>MT</b>   | Vice Chair                                                                             | Richmond Parent Carer Forum                        |
| Julie Hale            | <b>JH</b>   | Divisional Manager Richmond Children's Services                                        | Hounslow & Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust |
| Karl Burgess          | <b>KB</b>   | Transition Lead from Adult Social Services                                             | Richmond Council                                   |
| Alex Hardy            | <b>AH</b>   | SEND Advisor                                                                           | Ruils                                              |

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|-----------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alan Went       | <b>AWe</b> | Headteacher                                                 | Hampton Hill Junior School                                  |
| Jonathan Rourke | <b>JR</b>  | SENDIASS Team Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston         | KIDS                                                        |
| Denise Madden   | <b>DM</b>  | Deputy Executive Lead Integrated Care System                | Deputy Executive Lead Integrated Care System                |
| John Street     | <b>JS</b>  | Adult Services                                              | Richmond Council                                            |
| Andrea Ferns    | <b>AF</b>  | Designated Clinical Officer for SEND Integrated Care System | Designated Clinical Officer for SEND Integrated Care System |

|  <b>Minutes</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Action</b><br> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.                                                                                               | <b><i>Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies</i></b><br><br><i>A round of introductions were made and apologies were noted.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                      |
| 2.                                                                                               | <b><i>What do we know about the quality of SEND provision in Richmond?</i></b><br><br><b><i>Update from children and young people</i></b><br><br><i>AW acknowledged Micheal Griffiths joining as participation officer, noting that this is excellent news. SS will be sharing some feedback from young people later in the agenda. Item four will also cover some information on engagement work we are planning over the summer term. This will be a busy time working with young people.</i><br><br><b><i>Update from Parent Carer Forum</i></b> |                                                                                                      |

CR noted that Alex Hardy has been working hard to get quantitative data. CR feels the area PCF can help most is around the deep dive topics. What they have been hearing is still a lot of concern around secondary transfer. Parents are not feeling well informed. The PCF have run events with SENDIASS to try and help parents but there is still a lot of anxiety. Feedback from the event relating to the Written Statement of Action on the 13<sup>th</sup> March was that parents were grateful to be able to meet with other parents and professionals to discuss what is and isn't working well. Overall the theme is that parents feel left out in terms of decision making and planning in relation to their own children. SH advised that AH has had productive conversations regarding the new data log, however he is having to step aside for the moment due to personal circumstances. SH added that she is unsure how long AH will be away but it may be that someone else will need to take over. ID noted deep dive topics potentially secondary transfer and children and young people's mental health assessments.

#### ***Performance Dashboard and update report***

AW noted there were some comments regarding the data at the last meeting which have been taken forward and the dataset has been adjusted to reflect the feedback. AW added if there are any further comments please do let him know. ToR have also been updated incorporating comments received. The final version was included with the papers sent out and we will assume they are now agreed unless any further comments are received.

AW thanked CR and her team for the event on 13th, AW has received lots of feedback and will be meeting with PCF colleagues to discuss next steps. AW noted he had received some positive feedback regarding the transfer to secondary school process so it would be helpful to understand more detail of the concerns and anxieties raised at the PCF events.

***Action: AW and CR to discuss concerns raised regarding secondary school transfer process further.***

***AW/CR***

AW went on to say that the SEND Placement Commissioning team have had a positive impact in terms of contract management.

AW advised that Richmond has been notified by the DfE that we have met all terms of the Safety Valve Agreement and will therefore receive the next round of funding.

AW noted the areas that we still need to focus on:

- Level of need continues to remain high and requests for EHC needs assessments are up 30% compared to the same period last year.
- We are still experiencing challenges with recruitment within health and schools as well as all areas of social care.
- Timeliness of advice we are receiving is still having an impact on issuance of plans as well as the annual review performance. Although it is not obvious where solutions are, we need to remain focused.

Another Written Statement of Action (WSOA) monitoring meeting was held, which the DfE felt was necessary following the November meeting. The sole focus was on priority 4 - health pathways. The summary comment received is that the DfE feel there are positives. There are more people on the ground doing the work and they were able to identify some positives. However, there are still some areas where they will expect to see improvement by the next meeting on 27 April 2023.

As noted earlier, the engagement work due to be carried out in the summer term is around updating the SEND Futures Plan. We are currently mapping out a suggested engagement plan for children and young people and parents and carers. We will share this in due course and would welcome feedback and involvement.

AW advised that the DfE has published the improvement plan and suggested this would be worth a read. Please see [link to the document](#) with the [easy read version here](#).

CR asked about the timeliness of advice in relation to mental health assessments. AW responded that this is included in our areas of concern.

HM noted that we need to be careful when highlighting what is working well. CAMHS tier 2 referral says times have reduced but the reality is that it has only gone down by 3 weeks which leaves it at 20 weeks and is still too long. HM also queried some of the RAG rating noting that for example, health advice provided within 6 weeks is only 2% below target and yet are rag rated as red along with other categories much further away from target. HM added that it is difficult for teams when they are working to an objective and still being red rated when they are so close to their target. AW responded that at the last meeting we were asked to be clearer on the drivers for the RAG rating and there is now a section at the front of the report which shows this. A category is rag rated red when it is below target and going in the wrong direction. If a category is below target but going in the right direction it is normally amber. ID suggested waiting lists could still be reported as positive but perhaps with an additional note to say it is improving but there is still lots to do.

HM also asked what the Safety Valve money is used for. AW responded that the money goes towards reducing the Council's deficit, which is helpful as if the deficit continues to grow it will threaten the financial viability of the Council. PF added that as council members they watch the quarterly deficit reduction very closely and it is significant for the finances of the council.

ID noted lines 14 – 18 regarding participation and engagement, it appears we haven't had any responses. AW advised this is the case but the process has been updated and we are confident we will have some responses for the next quarter.

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|    | <p>ID noted potential topics for deep dive as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WSOA in May</li> <li>• Secondary transfer or CYP Mental Health waiting lists should be next</li> </ul> <p>HM wondered whether fixed term exclusions - ID noted that SS may pick that up today. SL suggested inviting colleagues from SWL &amp; St Georges to come and talk about waiting lists.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| 3. | <p><b>What is the partnership doing to drive improvement</b></p> <p><b>Deep dive into CME/Alternative provision</b></p> <p>SS shared the presentation circulated with the agenda, noting that alternative provision has become a bigger focus in Ofsted inspections and is an area very important to us which we continue to reflect on. The statutory guidance is actually quite out of date which isn't helpful. We do feel we have quite a robust offer, although we are aware of some gaps and we are addressing these. We have recently launched a toolkit and charter and have received positive feedback. We are also finalising the attendance policy and have created a strategy which includes a toolkit. In addition we now have a Tier 3 CAMHs Clinician seconded to the team 0.5 days per week.</p> <p>SS noted there is a typo on the ERSA numbers as they include both Kingston and Richmond. This number can be broken down if necessary.</p> <p>SS advised that schools do have a statutory responsibility to notify us in relation to children not in education so we are able to monitor this.</p> <p>PF asked what happens if a child who has an EHCP is struggling at school and the school is not able to keep the child but the parent is insistent that they do not want to take their child out of mainstream school. SS advised that we work alongside the school and the parents to try and find a solution but it is a challenge. CP added that we also try to help with communications between the school and parents. Sometimes it is about parents not understanding what the alternative could be.</p> |  |



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|    | <p>We also wrap support around them while these conversations take place. GS asked if there is tracking of schools consistently asking for changes of placements. SS responded that we do monitor requests for alternative provisions and if schools are referring more we would have conversations with them to see how we could support them. CP added that referrals are also a good indicator of what is happening and we do have a mental health team working with schools. We are doing more than we have done previously as specialist provision is so hard to find so we work with the school to try and maintain the provision even if just until a specialist provision can be found.</p> <p>SS shared a video of a year 10 young person who has been accessing medical provision and Anstee Bridge. This is her experience of Anstee Bridge.</p> <p><b>Action: Video to be circulated to members separately</b></p> <p>SS advised that he would like to spend some time for people to provide their thoughts and suggestions and shared a link to a Jamboard for people to add their comments.</p> <p>ID noted there are some clear themes appearing in the comments that we can address and feedback at a future meeting. ID noted he can see five areas we need to pick up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- voices and inclusion of wider family</li> <li>- content of mainstream curriculum</li> <li>- nature of mainstream extra curricular support</li> <li>- reintegration into mainstream</li> <li>- post 16 pathways</li> </ul> <p>ID noted we will revisit the five areas at a future meeting.</p> | JR |
| 4. | <p><b>Other updates</b></p> <p><b>Key service updates</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |



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|  | <i>AW updated on the situation regarding Spring School. The construction company building the new special free school unfortunately went bust so the DfE will have to re-procure another company to complete the work. The opening date at the permanent site will therefore be delayed but the DfE have agreed for us to go ahead with the opening at a new primary school opening in North Kingston. The school will be opening on time but on a different site for the first academic year. We have scheduled three in person meetings for the families to update them on the developments.</i> |  |
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**Richmond SEND Partnership Board will next meet on: 22 May 2023 9.30am**

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