

Kingston Parent Carer Consortium: Tuesday 12th September 12:00-13:30
Meeting Minutes

Parent Carer Forum / Parent & Carer representatives: Bev Pass, parent and PCF chair (BP), Linda Nystrom parent (LN), Jo Thomas, parent (JT), Rosie Fletcher-Brown, parent (RFB), Kacper Rucinski, parent (KR), Claudia Isaby, parent (CI), Kelly Harrison, parent (KH)

Staff: Ashley Whittaker, Programme Director, AfC (AW), Helen Barnett, SEND Policy and Project Coordinator, AfC (HB), Megan Francis-Falkner, SEND Policy and Project Officer, AfC (MF-F), Caroline Roberts, Inclusion Development Officer, AfC (CR), Rob Harris, SEND Parent Carer Engagement Officer, AfC (RH), Jonathan Rourke, SENDIASS (JR), Councillor Archer, Portfolio holder for Children's Services including Education, Kingston Council (SA), Peter Maasdorp, Service Manager, CAMHS Tier 3, Integrated Care Board ICB, Mental Health (PM), Diane Sanderson, Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) for SEND, AfC (DS), Sheldon Snashall, Associate Director Pupil Support, AfC (SS), Anna Chiva, Associate Director SEND, AfC (AC)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

AW introduced the meeting and welcomed DS to the group. DS has moved from Surrey Council and is responsible for SEND across social care and education to ensure there is a joined up approach and quality assurance.

BP asked for the following items to be added to AOB: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) concrete in local schools and the recent press coverage of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND programme.

AW alerted the group to a job opportunity at SENDIASS and to [share the job advertisement](#) where appropriate.

2. Deep Dive - transition to secondary school and the graduated response

SS presented the borough's offer for transition from primary to secondary school - link to the presentation [can be found here](#)

SS added that the borough's Transition Panel (established in October 2022) meets half-termly to discuss children who would benefit from additional support during transition. The panel uses a strength based approach including hybrid offers of support.

LN thanked SS and highlighted a gap in support at her son's secondary school following his transition into Year 7 this September. After the October half-term, SS and his team will contact parents of children with SEND to garner feedback on the transition experience and invited LN to be part of this piece of work.

CI added that feedback from the PCF focus groups earlier in the year, ranked transition as the 3rd most important issue mainly due to inconsistent practice and lack of information sharing between settings. AW and SS agreed there is variable practice across the borough and the pupil support team are working on creating a more consistent approach.

RFB asked if a cross-school strategy could be used to enhance professional development and consistency. SS advised that through the regular SENCO forums, best practice is shared with schools and the expectation is that SENCOs will then disseminate this information to their teams.

3. Parent Carer Forum update

BP advised that the PCF, joined by SA, Sarah Olney (MP for Richmond Park) and Sarah Ireland (CEO of Kingston Council) are to meet on 20th September to agree key priorities and KPIs based on the results of the Kingston

PCF parent carer survey which was distributed over the summer term. Also, development is in place for a Friends of the Steering Group nurture group.

4. Participation, Engagement & Co-production update

RH outlined activity in this area as follows:

- National Play Day - on the 2nd of August RH met with SEND parents at the Dickerage Lane event
- KCN (Kingston Carers Network) - [there is a one stop shop for carers](#) on the 1st Thursday of every month in the United Reform Church in New Malden. The event flyer will be included in the email with the minutes.
- KG and Alison Danks (Associate Director of Health Services, AfC) are continuing their work on autism and ADHD post-diagnostic support. The health team currently assigned to this area is moving away from the project so a new resource needs to be identified.
- Parent champions have been involved in recruitment for the post-diagnostic team in CAMHS.
- Following on from feedback in parent carer focus groups, a new information leaflet is being produced for the Short Breaks local offer.
- [Access All Areas event - throughout the day and early evening on Tuesday 10th October](#), Harlequins Rugby Club will host an event focusing on transition from secondary school into adulthood. It is a family friendly event offering advice within social care and housing to help improve life outcomes. The event flyer will be included in the email with the minutes.
- Let's Nurture - the sessions take place at Old Malden Children's Centre, 100 Lawrence Avenue, New Malden, KT3 5NB every month - more details can be found [on page 3 of this document](#).

5. Health, Education & Short Breaks update

CR provided an update on the Short Breaks programme:

- Over the summer holidays, Moor Lane organised group outings (inc. Godstone Farm, Brooklands hours) with places offered to both assessed and non-assessed children. Plans are underway for the October half-term offer.
- AfC's Inclusion Team visited 28 sessions over the summer and were impressed with the providers offer. The team were present at the National Play Day event on 2nd of August to offer support to local families.
- [Stay and Play at Moor Lane](#) returns every Wednesday from 10am -12pm
- Bookings are now live for providers to join a training session on 17th October. CR and AR will lead the sessions, aimed at increasing the understanding of what inclusion is - the plan is to run subsequent sessions based on the result of the initial training.
- CR and her team worked with AfC's FUEL project team to help deliver the programme across both boroughs. The three year programme is free to families of children on free-school meals.
- JT thanked CR and AR for their work and asked if FUEL is available to children with SEND? CR advised there are SEND specific camps available due to the overrepresentation of children with SEND in the FUEL cohort.

Action: HB to invite Seema Sehgal (Policy and Projects Officer-FUEL Lead, AfC) to a future meeting to explain the programme in more detail. **Update: Spotlight on FUEL added to the agenda for the PCF Consortium meeting on 7th November 2023.**

- CR and team have been visiting Challengers to work with them on their policies for both Kingston and Richmond boroughs.
- The annual service statement from the Short Breaks team is being finalised and once ready will be shared with the PCF for feedback.

Action: CR and RH to share the service statement with PCF.

Action: AW asked for any parental experience of short breaks, positive or negative, be shared with CR as this will help to develop the provider training.

AC provided an update on education:

- As this was AC's last meeting before she leaves AfC, she thanked the group for all their hard work over the years.
- Current SEND education projects include special schools working with AfC on the phase transfer from Year 6 to Year 7 and bringing forward the preference stage to late november/early December.
- SEND Coordinators team is now organised by school and not a child's surname - this is to help develop stronger relationships between AfC and schools and this change in service will be communicated to families very soon.
- There is on-going recruitment to find a successor for AC with an announcement to be made soon.

CI referred to the post-16 transition work for Kingston. AC advised that parental input is vital to ensure the process makes sense and a task and finish group will be set up to complete this. JR noted he would like to be involved in this process too.

AW advised that a new full-time DCO (Designated Clinical Officer) will be starting their post in the near future.

DS introduced herself and gave a brief update on Social Care:

- Primarily focusing on the timeliness of social care reports and developing a format that everyone can use.
- Creating a more joined-up approach between social care and education teams and ensuring there are clear processes for transition into adult social.

AC added the Quality Assurance project for social care and education is in place and this will be reflected back to the PCF to ensure clarity.

6. Actions from previous meetings for further discussion

KR raised the issue of a lack of swimming facilities in the borough following the closure of the Kingfisher Centre. A number of individuals in Kingston either require or would hugely benefit from regular physiotherapy and hydrotherapy which is a concern as this therapeutic service has been removed from the Local Offer. Special schools in the borough (Dysart School and Strathmore in Richmond) have fully equipped pools but these are not readily available to the public. KR added that according to the latest designs, the proposed replacement pool is not equipped for customers with physical disabilities. SA added that the original budget of £80m, set pre-covid, is no longer available, so the new design is simplified and building starts in 2025.

Action: AW asked CR to investigate how a 3rd party can access pools at special schools and liaise with KC and KH.

Action: AW suggested Martel Atterbury (Sport & Leisure Development Officer) attend a future meeting to ensure the issue is fully addressed.

Action: HB to add swimming facilities as a main agenda Deep Dive item.

7. A.O.B

BP asked if any schools in the borough were closing due to RAAC. SA advised that no Kingston schools are currently closed but precautionary inspections are underway due to be completed by Friday 15th September.

AW addressed the article in [The Observer newspaper \(Sunday 10th September 2023\)](#) concerning the [Delivering Better Value \(DBV\) in SEND programme](#). The article suggests that the Government has set targets to reduce the overall number of EHC plans. Nationally there is a shortfall of funding to deliver statutory SEND duties and the amount of money provided by the Department of Education is not sufficient to meet demand. Kingston is not part of the DBV programme; there is a [Safety Valve Agreement between the Department for Education and Kingston](#). The agreement stipulates the need for early intervention and a rigorous annual review process but there are no targets agreed between the parties. IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Educational Advice) approached all local authorities, including Kingston, regarding the claims in the DBV newspaper article, to

which a reply was sent stating no targets have been set by Kingston. SA advised that the council have committed to filling the gap on £5m overspend which is not protocol for council budgets but this is due to insufficient funding from central government.

RFB said that the article has caused worry amongst families and reassurance from AfC via SENCOs would be advisable to alleviate the anxiety caused.

Action: BP suggested that KL's regular newsletter include Kingston's statement on DBV.

Update: Since this meeting, [a statement is now live on the local offer](#) and HB shared this with CI for the PCF newsletter.

JR added that legally nothing has changed and the process for applying for an EHC plan remains the same.

Action: JR to organise a parent group session at SENDIASS to communicate this.

Action: HB to carry forward blue badge update.

CI raised the issue of staffing within the speech and language service and CAMHS. AC added that a draft therapies partnership paper will be shared with this group for discussion to provide feedback for the TOG (Therapies Oversight Group).

Action: HB to update Deep Dive forward plan

Action: AC to ensure therapies partnership paper is shared with Consortium

Next meeting: Wednesday 11th October 2023, 12:00-13:30

Forward plan of deep dive topics:

Meeting date	Deep Dive Topic	Owner
Tuesday 11th July	Mental health services	Sharron Nelson, ICB
	Blue Badges	Nkem Obianyor – Head of Customer Experience for Kingston and Sutton
August – no meeting		
Tuesday 12th September	Transition to secondary school for children with send	Sheldon Snashall, AfC
	Graduated response & ERSA*	
	CAMHS Tier 2*	Jo Steer
Wednesday 11th October	Health Services - current challenges relating to resources / budgets	Alison Danks, AD of Health Services, AfC
	Blue Badges	Nkem Obianyor - Head of Customer Experience for Kingston and Sutton
Tuesday 7th November	Swimming facilities in Kingston	Martel Atterbury - Sport & Leisure Development Officer, Kingston Council.

	F.U.E.L (Feed Ur Everyday Lives) project	Seema Sehgal, Policy and Projects Officer-FUEL Lead, AfC
Wednesday 13th December	Neurodevelopmental pathways for 0-18 year olds inc post-diagnosis support	Sharron Nelson, ICB Karen Gale, member of PCF

* Items to be carried forward to a future meeting