

SEND Partnership Board Communication

Third meeting of the SEND Partnership Board in July

We continue to see really good commitment from all partners to the Board and our shared commitment to improving services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. There were three parent representatives and one young person representative at the Board meeting – all made a big contribution.

We agreed on how we will work as a Board going forwards, with three themed priorities that we always focus upon. These are as follows:

INFORM

- Ensuring that the Board is fully informed about children and young people's needs through feedback from children and families. We will do this through:
 1. Reviewing data on performance and outcomes for children and young people with SEND and
 2. Monitoring the quality of how well services are delivered in order to improve low quality and learn from areas of high quality
- Ensuring that children and young people, and all those who care for them, are better informed about the support available and how to obtain it
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INVOLVE

- To get better at involving children, young adults and families, both in individual planning and in driving service improvements
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IMPROVE

- Delivering the SEND Futures Plan as the way to improve the services from all partners in Richmond

The Board discussed a summary of what we think is going well and what we are more worried about:

GOING WELL

- Engagement and participation by parents through the Parent Panel, emerging Parent/Carer Forum and the SEND Futures Conference
- Local Offer with more specialist school places in the borough over the next few years
- Secondary schools reviewing each other's approach to inclusion
- 100% of all new EHCPs completed within 20 weeks

WORRIES

- Demand continues to rise with a consequent further pressure upon budgets
- Workforce pressures and particular issues about recruitment, retention and skills gaps in schools and health providers

Finally we had a particular focus upon Transitions for young people into adulthood, and what we can do to provide better support. The key actions here were debated and can be summarised as:

- Working with young people and parents on revised Navigator guidance (where to go / who to call) to make clearer the pathways and options for young people moving into adulthood
- Increasing the aspirations for young people - only 26% of young people with SEND had even been asked about what they wanted to do as adults
- Raising the number of young people with supported internships.
- Ensuring a focus on the transition to adult Health and Social Care services, not just Education

The Board next meets in September and will have a particular focus upon health provision.