

Kingston SEND Parent Consortium

King Charles Centre, Surbiton

Date: Wednesday 10th July 12:30 – 2pm and 7pm – 8:30pm

Please note that these notes are a joint record of both meetings.

Present:

Morning

Agnieszka Czerwinska, parent, Ashley Whittaker, SEND Programme Director, Catherine Ratcliffe, Contact, Cllr Diane White, Garfield Maryon, parent, Jane McCready, parent, Karen Lowry, AfCinfo/SEND Local Offer Website Manager, Pauline Maddison, Director of Children's Services.

Evening

Aisling Newton, parent, Ashley Whittaker, SEND Project Director, Beverley Pass, parent, Catherine Ratcliffe, Contact, Charis Penfold, Director for Education Services, Christine Flowers, parent, Cllr Diane White, Karen Lowry, AfCinfo/SEND Local Offer Website Manager, Nadia Piper, parent, Sarah Richardson, parent.

Heading	Main points
Introductions and welcome	Ashley Whittaker (AW) welcomed parents. There are 25 parents signed up to the Consortium. It was recognised that location and making sure that meetings could be accessible to all was important. A more central location was suggested but it was noted that what might be central to some was not for others.
Agree Notes from last meeting	<p>AW talked through notes of last meeting. It was noted that a new permanent Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) had been recruited and would be starting in September. It was repeated that Health and Social Care representation should be secured for future meetings.</p> <p>Sign up to the Knowledge Hub was slow and more content needed. KL to encourage parents to sign up</p>

and start adding some reading over the summer period.

The group asked how representative the group was of needs and suggested that complex medical needs should be added as a category. KL to do a review of membership for gaps.

Parent Carer Forum –
Next Steps

Pauline Maddison (PM) welcomed Catherine Ratcliffe (CR) from Contact. PM had found the Rotherham PCF workshop at the SEND Futures conference powerful and inspirational and hoped it was a model we could aspire to in Kingston.

Acknowledging parents as experts on their child and equals in the room and taking time to make things right for parents, with the child at the centre always was key to building trust. CR told the group about the Contact Genuine Partnerships framework and the 4 cornerstones (document circulated with notes).

However, it was important that parents felt that any involvement would be manageable and not off putting. Understanding the concept of co-production could be difficult. Campaigning was a short term activity but co production was a long term commitment. CR said that it was becoming common for Parent Carer Forums (PCF) to align with an existing umbrella organisation who would be responsible for administration and other aspects of governance thereby taking the pressure off parents. This might be a permanent arrangement or temporary once a PCF established.

It was noted that Kingston did not have a pan disability group (such as Skylarks in Richmond) but that there were some groups that might be invited to pitch for the umbrella organisation role based on a specification that could be developed with the help of Contact.

Parents asked CR how a PCF might be structured and what roles and commitments for parents might be.

Christine Flowers (CF) said that support offered by parents and between parents was invaluable and happening every day. Some parents might not want to be involved more than that. Nadia Piper (NP) said

that as parents they had lots of knowledge and experience but not necessarily the time for greater involvement. CR and the group agreed that there was much value and an important role for peer to peer support in the work of a forum. This might be through online forums, social media, whatsapp groups and for a forum to decide what they could offer to make best use of skills and strengths of parents.

CR said that there are lots of models and that Contact could help any new PCF to understand these, provide role descriptions and expectations. Ultimately it would be for Kingston parents to own and decide levels of activity. The minimum requirement for the £15K DfE grant (currently held by Contact) was to be in a productive relationship with the local authority. The Rotherham PCF had been going for 10 years and it was important for a new PCF to take “baby” steps.

The parents present at both meetings agreed that the consortium should begin the process of becoming the official Parent Carer Forum and that this decision should be put to all the other members of the Consortium for agreement. KL to circulate a smart survey poll and asking all Consortium members for permission to share email addresses to enable easier communication between parents.

CR would contact the group with further information and next steps.

Update on Co Production Five priority areas of co-production (below) had been identified. Work on some areas had already started with parent involvement and others were yet to start. Parents were invited to say which areas they would like to be involved in. It was agreed that KL could circulate a list for all parents to see especially as not all were able to attend the meetings.

Therapies:

16 – 25 pathways:

Annual Reviews:

Special Schools:

Autism Strategy:

Sarah Richardson (SR) asked if these areas were the only areas that parents could influence as, if so, it could appear guided. Charis Penfold (CP) reassured the group that that was not the case but that the areas had been identified in response to the SEND Local Area Written Statement of Action (WSOA). Aisling Newton (AN) pointed out that summer holidays were approaching and that parents might not be available to take part. CP assured that opportunities to work together would be ongoing.

AOB:
Response to Education
Commission Report

A parent not able to attend the meetings had asked for an update on how the LA and partners intended to respond to the Education Commission Report that had been recently published. The vast majority of recommendations in the report had related to SEND and Achieving for Children (AfC). PM told the group that it was acknowledged that the report had been published out of timescale in some respects as all the actions had already been picked up and cross referred in the Written Statement of Action response and The SEND Futures plan for Kingston. Recommendations in relation to the Council's management of and relationship with AfC already had resulted in considerable changes:

- Responsibility for AfC contract management sitting at a higher level under a Director of Commercial Contracts.
- An interim arrangement for a separate Director of Children's Services with services being more aligned to a Richmond model.
- Schools Forum – a review of the role of the forum

Agnieszka Czerwinska said that it was still very confusing as to who was responsible for services. Better clarification was needed with perhaps a visual representation on a structure chart and that this would also be useful to have from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Next meeting:

KL would circulate some dates for further meetings of the Consortium from September. Agnieszka

Agnieszka Czerwinska and Jane Mcready asked to
take part remotely for following meetings.
