

## **Richmond SEND Partnership Board - September Meeting SUMMARY**

We continue to see really good commitment from all partners to the Board and our shared commitment to improving services. The Parent Panel was represented and the views of young people were heard.

### **INFORM**

- The Board is now able to look at the data on children and young people's outcomes and address key concerns:
  - The CCG will lead on addressing the long waiting times for mental health services;
  - Writing progress at primary school for children with EHCPs has improved significantly but still room for further improvement;
  - The funding gap remains a very significant issue and will not be solved by the government's recent announcement of increased funding.
- There is now a systematic approach to Quality Assurance of EHCPs, with new members of staff in place for AfC and the CCG, and the Board is beginning to hear what is going well and where we need to improve:
  - Much better health input to children and young people's plans;
  - Very low take-up of Personal Budgets;
  - Short breaks are not referred to often enough in plans;
  - Speech and Language therapy needs to be more accessible.

### **INVOLVE**

- Parents have been contributing to the Therapies Review and work on producing an up to date Autism Strategy;
- The next pieces of work that parents will be asked to engage with are the development of the 16-19 Transitions offer, and the Local Offer web pages;
- Children and young people were engaged in a very successful event with health providers and were able to voice some powerful messages about some professional behaviours which need to improve;
- The Parent Panel continues to develop effectively and the Parent Carer Forum has almost reached the point where it can begin work.

### **IMPROVE**

- The deep dive for the Board was about how well we are meeting children and young people's health needs:
- Good News on fewer children attending hospital A&E; an effective ASD pathway piloted and implemented which has reduced waiting times; and more young people receiving mental health support.
- Major challenges are the levels of demand and capacity for CAMHS and therapies; waiting times for under 5s to have an ASD assessment; and community services for those with complex needs and challenging behaviours.
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The Board next meets in November and will have a particular focus upon children's social care provision.