

NOTES AND ACTION POINTS – RICHMOND PARENT PANEL MEETING
21ST OCTOBER, 2019

Present: Parents: Ana Daruwalla (Parent – In the Chair) - AD
Louise Edwards (PCF) - LE
Minta Townshend - MT
Dave Leeman - DL
Oksana Clancy - OC
Kevin Sears (Associate - PCF) - KC
Jacqui Hindley - JH
Ellen Purton –EP

AFC: James Thomas - JT
Ashley Whittaker - AW
Anna Chiva - AC

Apologies received from: Kristina Dale (Parent)
Alison Sears (Associate - PCF)

Introductions and Welcome

The attendees introduced themselves and members of the PCF attending for the first time were able to meet with the Parent Panel members.

Minutes from Last Meeting/Updates:

Representation of the Panel:

Proposed Action: Request made for Karen Lowry to make contact with all parents who have expressed an interest in becoming involved but are not currently participating. Email listing to be updated.

Knowledge Hub:

Under-utilisation of the tool was discussed and a training session has been requested.

Proposed Action: JT/AW to organise

SEND Partnership Board:

- Trying to reduce long waiting times for mental health services. Measures including (but not limited to) early intervention are there to try and prevent escalation where possible; Tier 2 services have additional recourses to try and reduce waiting times; as well as piloting and delivering a new ASD pathway, which has been tried in Kingston borough and is now being delivered in Richmond for 6-18 yrs ASD and ADHD assessment services.

- The funding gap still remains a very significant issue. A very large portion of expenditure is on total acute commissioning and work is being done to try and reduce some of this, one example being people attending A & E when they don't really need to.
- There is now a systematic approach to Quality Assurance of EHCPs. Having a dedicated person looking at this area is a very positive step. They are looking to produce new guidance for parents and young people to help them understand the process etc. They are also looking again at 'Golden Binder'
- Priority needs to be around partnership working along the way prior to diagnosis. It has been stated that it would be really helpful to understand what is going on during the waiting time and this could be managed better with more active communication.
- Major challenges are the levels of demand and capacity for CAMHS and therapies; waiting times for under 5's to have ASD assessments and community services for those with complex needs and challenging behaviours.

Terms of Reference:

This document has not yet been updated in view of the governance documents that are being drafted by the Parent Carers Forum as it may be a duplication.

Proposed Action: AD to email governance documents drafted by the PCF to Parent Panel members via Karen Lowry.

SENDIAS Group:

MT updated the group on the SENDIAS Steering Group that Jonathan Rourke is organising.

Merger of PCF and Parent Panel:

A further discussion following on from the last meeting took place. It was decided that a joint informal meeting of the Parent Panel and PCF members be held in order to progress this further and elect the Leadership team at the next meeting scheduled for 21st November, 2019.

Proposed Action: MT to send out a Doodle Poll invite and liaise with Catherine Ratcliffe and Karen Lowry to organise the meeting.

Assessment and Pathways

Anna Chiva presented the Assessment and Pathways process from the current version of the Golden Binder (copy enclosed).

AD commented that a one page summary from the work stream sessions, as requested in August, 2019, was not circulated prior to the meeting. There was a request to include the following in the presentation:

- Update on how assessment and pathway stream is doing

- What input is required from parents /what will be most beneficial in terms of improvement and impact.
- Plan processes, timely intervention, immediately as issues are identified as this will be beneficial and cost effective for all involved.
- Provisions in place currently
- Integration with other services
- Current thresholds
- Communication - parents and all agencies
- A summary of what's going well, where improvement is needed, main themes that arise, what needs to happen, how can we make the system work for everyone.
- Would it be worth discussing the lack of or complexity around those who have a range of comorbidities? Therefore, "multiple" and no actual pathway is suited as each pathway currently seems to be focusing on the specific topic?

AC had not been forwarded the request and has undertaken to do a post-meeting synopsis to be circulated to the Parent Panel and PCF members and be attached to the Minutes.

Proposed Action: AC to circulate synopsis of where the SEN department is in terms of initiatives adopted and processes which are under review.

AOB:

AW requested parent representation on various Committees and Workstreams:

- Workstream Assessment – 5 parents
- SEND Futures Conference – 2 parents
- Golden Binder
- Digital Workshop
- Research in Healthcare
- Welsh CYP

Parent Panel and PCF – or the combined PCF – to allocate resources accordingly.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

AD
27th October, 2019