

RBK Parent Consortium
12.30 - 2.30 pm
17 January 2020
King Charles Centre, Surbiton

Attendees:

Parents and Carers

Niamh McMahon
Agnieszka Czerwinska
Garfield Maryon
Shazia Muqsood
Nadia Piper
Nick Spratt
Tatty Bowman
Claire Evans
Alicia
Kasper Rucinski
Christine Flowers

Achieving for Children AfC

Ashley Whittaker, Programme Director (AW)
Ian Dodds, Director of Children's Services (ID)
Anna Chiva, Associate Director, SEND (AC)
Alison Danks, Associate Director, Health Services (AD)
Sara Doyle, Associate Director for Identification and Assessment (SD)
Karen Lowry, AfC info/SEND Local Offer Website Manager (KL)
Julia Hunt, Governor Support Officer (clerk)

Kingston Council:

Martel Atterbury - Active Kingston

Apologies:

Bev Pass (parent / carer)
Alison Stewart (Designated Clinical Officer, AfC)

1. Introductions

- Following group introductions, ID briefly summarised his background, prior to his appointment at Director of Children's Services (DCS).
- The Local Government Ombudsman & Social Care Ombudsman report published this week was critical of how Richmond Council and AfC have supported children with complex needs in the past. Richmond Council and AfC have been recommended to audit current plans and submit their findings to the Ombudsman.
- ID outlined his key priorities:
 - To build on the SEND transformation progress

- Moving AfC's delivery of some services into a more borough focused model
- Implementation of the First 1,000 days initiative. This aims to join up services and improve access for children through early intervention.
- Increase the sufficiency of the local offer in terms of care, school placements, and local provision.
- Improved partnership working with all stakeholders and joint commissioning with health and public health.

2. Sport Opportunities in Kingston for children and young people with SEND (Martel Atterbury, RBK Active Kingston)

Following November's meeting, MA had been asked to give a presentation outlining sporting opportunities available to SEND children and young people in Kingston.

- Details of opportunities available can be found via the following:
 - AfC Local Offer https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer which includes Kingston's CSPAN directory of leisure activities
 - Kingston Council's website <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/sports> or their social media platforms via <https://www.facebook.com/activekingstonteam/>, or <https://twitter.com/activekingston?lang=en>
- Many sporting governing bodies are supporting the offer and activity providers include Korda, YMCA, Fulham Football Club, Special Olympics Surrey.
- RBK Active Kingston would like feedback from parents regarding RaceRunning and CSPAN also welcome input from parents.
- RBK Active Kingston are keen to hear from parents about any gaps in the offer and welcomed feedback.
- A new cycleway has been created between New Malden and Raynes Park.
- Active Kingston can be contacted via Martel email: martel.atterbury@kingston.gov.uk

Actions:

MA to speak to the Special Olympics regarding opening the offer to include children and young people without learning disabilities

MA to look at a Bikeability offer more local to Kingston

3. Update on the Parent Panel/Parent Carer Forum (PCF) (Niamh McMahon and Agnieszka Czerwinska)

- Work on the PCF is ongoing. Terms of reference and statutory documentation have been prepared.
- Formal launch is on 29 March 2020 and looking at one of the Chessington World of Adventures resort hotels
- The Knowledge Hub has been contacted and can start to invite people into the group.
- The PCF needs to recruit more members to ensure the forum is diverse and representative of the differing needs in the community. AW confirmed that following the January census, AfC would be able to identify a needs profile by ward and could help with targeted mailing to particular schools. AfC happy to include information on PCF via their weekly communication channels with schools and SENCo networks .
- Recruitment process for voluntary sector partner open until mid Feb

- PCF is planning to have 8 meetings a year and two events

The RBK Kingston Parent Consortium was established last year in the absence of a PCF. AfC are happy to continue facilitating these meetings but AW asked if consortium members wished to continue with these meetings once the PCF had been established.

Consortium members confirmed they would like these meetings to continue in the short term and it was agreed this would be reviewed at a later date.

Action

- AW to provide (who) with breakdown of need via ward following census results.
- When available, PCF to provide AW with information to include in eNews, SENCo enews

4. Therapy Review (Anna Chiva and Alison Danks)

AC and AD presented an update on the Therapy Review which took place jointly between AfC, Kingston Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

- Consultations took place across the borough to seek the views of young people, parents and schools and a needs analysis was undertaken.
- Amongst the feedback, young people would prefer therapy delivered within the classroom rather than being taken out of class. Parents found therapy difficult to access and the quality variable and was a reason for choosing independent sector school provision.
- There was recognition that access into the system is difficult to navigate and Single Point of Access model for therapies be considered
- There is a current lack of capacity
- Upskilling the school workforce is key
- Joint commission and delivery by health, education and social care needs to be improved
- The offer needs to be consistent and equitable.
- Over the coming weeks key decisions will be made about the funding of the therapies model. Schools Forum will make their decision w/c 13 January 2020 and the CCG and Kingston Council will make their decision by the end of February. Following the outcome of these decisions, the review can be moved forward and a paper published in early March.
- The Consortium felt the timing of the consultation was poor and were disappointed no parent voice was heard in the review. AW confirmed colleagues did reach out to parents last summer and in the autumn. When the commissioning process begins, the voice of parents will be key and further engagement will take place.
- AW also confirmed that no decision about services are made at Schools Forum, this is a committee that discusses investment into the system by schools.
- Consortium members discussed how aware parents are of the limitations of school budgets; and how many schools are using their budget to fund ECHPs and so SEN Support children are losing out.
- AD summarised the review's detailed recommendations:
 - Universal and clear access to information is needed
 - Increased support and direct intervention when it is needed
 - Roles to offer support for families pre and post-diagnosis

- Specialist training for mainstream and special school staff. The consortium discussed the differing training needs for special school staff and AfC confirmed special school Headteachers are clear about what training their staff require.
- Recruitment of a stable and skilled network of professionals who are confident in delivering therapeutic support and advice.

Q. What impact will this have on those children on SEN support?

A. It depends on what investment is agreed.

Q. Does that mean funding from all SEN Support will be gone?

A. Different schools have different approaches to SEN Support. Some access services through AfC, some access therapies directly themselves. The idea of the review was to pool resources and commission collectively. Kingston has had a good SEN Support offer and schools are in a conflicted position.

There are inequalities in terms of funding and some schools are more inclusive than others. SEN Support funding is allocated by Central Government. However the DfE are now looking at this. AW confirmed that AfC are keen to hear about the challenges of SEN Support funding and confirmed there are routes to [feedback](#) within the local offer.

5. Disability Register (Karen Lowry)

KL updated the meeting on future plans for the disabilities register and a supporting paper was circulated prior to the meeting.

- The register is going to be relaunched and AfC are keen for feedback.
- The aim is to encourage a wider range of families to access this register.
- Registration would allow AfC to collect information about the differing levels of need and would enable them to plan services as well as enable AfC to communicate with families. There will be paper based form for those without access to the internet.
- The consortium discussed the effectiveness of all of these cards and KL confirmed the new card would be more official looking than the previous one.
- Once the card is set up AfC would promote it with various providers.
- The register would give a better insight into the SEN Support community as these families are only known to schools their children attend. GDPR prevents schools sharing this information with AfC.

Action:

- **KL to explore how the form can be translated into various languages**

6. Quality Assurance (QA) process of Annual Reviews and the Annual Review Process (Anna Chiva)

This topic was raised at the last meeting in November. Alison Stewart will update from a health perspective at the next meeting. AC gave an update in terms of the SEN team.

- Significant resources have gone into the SEN team.
- Significant activity has taken place on QA of annual reviews. QA was managed internally but is now being done externally. This is a multi agency QA process which involves health, social care, and education. 15 cases are selected randomly and are reviewed. AC

acknowledged there have been some issues and training for professionals is required. Unfortunately we are quite far away from joint outcomes at the moment

- SEN Team Deputy (deputy what?) with responsibility for QA and is looking at timely communications
- Would like to work with panel/PCF on feedback of QA. Possibly a “you said, we did” format. Perhaps come back to panel to report on feedback?
- Annual review process. Team are working hard to ensure there are internal timelines in terms of responding. There is an annual review team to keep on top of the process however improvements need to be made to ensure the EHCP process is a partnership thing.
- Changing processes. As part of the statutory assessment and annual review process the team are looking at providing a “who am I?” pack containing names of staff and details of timelines. SEN Team have drafted some information and would like feedback.
- The consortium noted that the quality of the EHCP is only as good as the professionals report and AC confirmed that Alison Stewart has been doing audits with various providers with the aim of producing a single health form. Alison Stewart is also drafting a toolkit based on best practice guidance to help health professionals. It is a training issue and all of the therapy professionals are welcoming input.
- The Consortium commented that names are often missing off Annual Reviews and AC acknowledged that there had been staffing issues but SEN team is now fully staffed. Staff names will be reconfirmed as part of the annual review process.
- It was noted that parents are frustrated by having to complete the annual review form three times and didn't feel each area communicates with the other. Also professionals are attending the review without the relevant paperwork. AC confirmed that a new form has just been launched which should alleviate some of this frustration although there is work to be done with social care's input into the process. Schools are also being encouraged to get updates from services before the form is completed.

Actions

- AC to send out an update to parents/carers about the new annual review form.
- AC to update parents/carers on the “who am I” pack
- AC to review workstream 5 to consider where parent input is needed
- Alison Stewart to be invited to attend March Consortium meeting.

Want some feedback on chatbot

Parents grateful for the update at the Grand Ave meeting

7. AOB

- AfC are still keen to have feedback on the chatbot. This should be sent directly to KL.
- AD gave an update on the nursing team at Moor Lane. There have been some staffing issues and recruitment is underway for a full time community nurse post.
- Kingston's Paediatric Outreach Nursing Team (PONT) team provided support over Christmas, however the Consortium were unaware of this. Moor Lane services are not

supposed to be 24 hour and AD is reviewing provision to seek clarity on what the offer is as families need to know who to contact out of school hours.

- Consortium members questioned the process around accessing EPs in mainstream schools as it is inconsistent. AW confirmed that for statutory assessments, schools have funding allocated within their budget.
- Members also raised the issue of accessing EP time at SEN Support which is very difficult/non existent. AW confirmed that schools buy in additional EP time to deliver services in their school and therefore allocate resources themselves however there is a national shortage of EPs. Robust conversations are taking place with schools and the DfE are visiting schools to see how they are spending their notional SEN funding. Currently schools do not have to declare how they spend it. Parents are worried about escalating this with individual schools and AW asked for feedback to see if this is happening systematically for children on SEN Support.
- Chat and Play - [new dates](#) are on the Local Offer website

Future Meeting dates: 20 March, 12.30 to 14.30, King Charles Centre