

## Richmond SEND Partnership Board COVID meeting 11 May 2020

**Attendees:** Ian Dodds, Ashley Whittaker, Alex Hardy, Alison Danks, Alison Stewart, Charis Penfold, Claire Richmond, Grace Over, Heather Mathew, Ian Hutchings, Ivan Pryce, Jessica Thom, Jonathan Rourke, Cllr Penny Frost, Sara Doyle, Tracey Mabbs, Carrie Mark, Mitchell, Tonia Michaelides, Julie Hale, Claire Schneider, Janice Riley

Team	Comments	Worries	Response/Actions
<b>Children and young people (Grace/Mitch)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running lots of sessions with young people using WhatsApp and video calls.</li> <li>• Young people have been involved in consultations and have provided input into various other work, including improving accessibility of letters sent out to all children and young people with SEND and their families, My Say and the chat bot on the Local Offer. Their availability is slightly more flexible at the moment given that many are at home during the day.</li> <li>• Virtual participation drop in sessions are also now being held on a weekly basis.</li> <li>• Children and young people have said it really helps being able to keep in touch, either by phone or video, with people they trust and have built a relationship with.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher number of young people requiring emotional support.</li> <li>• Young people are worried about the virus, missing their friends and colleagues and are becoming bored with no real pattern to school work. They are also concerned about having to put future plans on hold.</li> <li>• Access to therapy is a concern children and young people have mentioned</li> <li>• Some lack access to IT for learning and / or staying in touch or are on pay as you go mobile data</li> <li>• Lack of divide between home and school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• highlight online offer of voluntary sector such as TAG Youth Club</li> <li>• highlight how valued personal contact from staff the child or young person knows is, and how much of a difference it makes e.g. remembering someone's birthday</li> <li>• continue to investigate improving access to online offer</li> </ul>
<b>Parents and carers (Claire Richmond)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-iterated the importance of maintaining contact from people that children and young people know and trust</li> <li>• Thanks for the evidence of eligibility letter to exercise more than once per day which was well received and appreciated by parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of consistency around whether children and young people with an EHCP should be at home or in school. Some parents have reported not being part of the conversation/decision (although most are happy to happy with the decision where it is to have the child at home).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is very clear guidance that parents should be involved in the assessment of whether children should be attending school. Schools have been given clear guidance on the risk assessment process and that parents and carers (and children and young people) should be involved with these. IP noted that the assessment form was not shared as very complex but parents were involved in assessments. IH noted that they are sending weekly emails to parents asking if they need support. More children have starting coming to school since Easter.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some parents are unclear about why when a child or young person normally receives 1:1 support in school they are not receiving contact from this person when at home.</li> <li>• Parents have asked for support with equipment to enable occupational therapy for their children. Plus access to sensory circuit videos. Also a suggestion of perhaps being able to use a local park on an appointment basis to help with occupational therapy.</li> <li>• Concerns around re-integration as we start to return to school and what support will be provided. All children and young people will be anxious about this and those with SEND even more.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: CP to follow up and re-iterate.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IH advised that in his school they are making contact with all children who have a support assistant. In the majority it will be their own support whoever some are off sick and another assistant is making calls on those occasions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: CP to raise with schools.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS reported there are online videos available along with a virtual offer. Some information is on the Local Offer but this is being developed. Small Steps are posting weekly videos which are available to everyone. HM noted there is an Adults charity doing video therapy sessions online which have been working very well. There would be a lot to consider in relation to the use of local parks and risk control but could be investigated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: HM offered to contact Marble Hill park to find out the current condition of the playground and their thoughts on the idea. If this were to be organised support would be required from other colleagues.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CP advised there is a great deal of work already under way in relation to re-integration. We are looking at research from other countries who have already come out of lockdown to see what difficulties they have identified. Teams are preparing for all children's return to school, anticipating various issues. Key groups are working together including health professionals, emotional health teams, Educational Psychologists etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voluntary sector (Heather Mathew/ Jonathan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM advised that overall the voluntary sector has adapted really well and been very creative in reaching out to people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently 2900 people who have volunteered to help but opportunities coming forward are very</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Rourke/Alex Hardy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAG are providing daily online sessions.</li> <li>• Some group sessions were arranged and feedback was received that some people found these too difficult and prefer 1:1 sessions. Work has been done with Richmond Parish Lands for funding to enable 1:1 sessions to be arranged.</li> <li>• Music therapy is available online e.g Otakar Kraus Music Trust</li> <li>• Barnes Cares which is made up of 15 stations has extended to provide support five days per week.</li> <li>• Peter Cowley is providing support to make sure all sessions are safe.</li> <li>• Cruse are providing bereavement support and Winston's Wish is another organisation which can be accessed online or by phone.</li> <li>• JR noted the recent message sent to SENCOs was very clear and helpful.</li> <li>• AH noted that AfC Case Workers have been really efficient and have really stepped up during these challenging times.</li> <li>• JR noted the full team are working from home although most business is as usual. They have offered virtual coffee mornings but the take up has been very low.</li> </ul>	<p>limited. Mentoring support is being developed but some volunteers who are currently working will soon be returning to work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal, OCD and other behavioural issues are emerging as a problem for some young people.</li> <li>• AH noted there has been confusion for parents around who should be taking the lead on assessments regarding school attendance. Some have also mentioned they would like more flexibility around medical treatment.</li> <li>• JR said still some uncertainty about online safety and Zoom etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ID confirmed that schools should take the lead on assessments and should be contacting families.</li> <li>• Peter Cowley to be contacted re summary advice</li> <li>• <b>Action: CP to pass on praise to AfC case workers.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Early years</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TM advised they are having regular contact with parents on the phone, weekly or when they require support.</li> <li>• Offering advice on areas needed, in particular behaviour and strategies to help with developmental progress.</li> <li>• Looking at how we will integrate and re-settle children in.</li> <li>• Re-modelling the environment for a safe return.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns they are hearing are changes in children's development and the impact of this on EHCP's in process.</li> <li>• Are there developmental gaps in their child's learning widening.</li> <li>• Nervous parents about the return.</li> <li>• Lack of appointments with professionals, although some seem to be enjoying the break from this.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Primary (Ian Hutchins/ Ivan Pryce)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IH advised that the number of attendees in school is now fairly consistent.</li> <li>• IH is working with parents to try and provide what</li> </ul>		<p>CP: Last week had been big focus on risk assessments, this week on phase transfers. Research shows that the most important things</p>

	<p>works for them as this is not the same for all families. Some families may only have one laptop for the whole household so trying to adapt accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AfC work with SENCOs was very helpful.</li> <li>• Now thinking about transition back to school.</li> <li>• IP noted that in Clarendon parents seem quite reluctant to send children into school even though plans were in place to accommodate them.</li> <li>• Plans are in place for children to return.</li> </ul>		for children going back to school is “reintegration” rather than “catching up”.
<b>Secondary (Charis Penfold)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CP advised the Secondary schools are working on transitions and the issues that may arise, particularly for children and young people with EHCPs.</li> </ul>		
<b>College</b>			
<b>Short breaks (Alison Danks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AD noted they are providing support as best they can and are liaising with schools to prioritise those who not attending school.</li> <li>• Virtual support is also taking place.</li> <li>• Positive feedback has been received.</li> </ul>		
<b>Therapy provision (Alison Stewart/ Julie Hale/Claire Schneider)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS advised they are working closely with colleagues to see what increased offer can be made available.</li> <li>• HRCH are ensuring schools have information.</li> <li>• JH thanked CS for putting the template together and coordinating support to individual children.</li> </ul>		
<b>Mental Health (Tonia Michaelides)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online offer (Kooth) is available but there hasn’t been a huge increase in contact.</li> <li>• Looking at research from other countries coming out of lockdown.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving into the next phase there will be more focus on mental health as we are expecting issues to emerge as we move out of lockdown.</li> <li>• HM noted there is a problem around how available information is and it needs to be made more visible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action: AW and TM to pick up mental health information availability and ensure more readily available.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Social Care (Sara Doyle)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social care teams are doing mostly virtual visits and phone calls. Some young people like this and others are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitions to adults has been delayed</li> <li>• Return to school expected to be</li> </ul>	

	<p>not so keen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few placement breakdowns but we are seeing issues with children who are at home.</li> </ul>	<p>problematic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional wellbeing a concern</li> <li>• Domestic abuse expected to rise</li> </ul>	
<b>Adult Services</b>			
<b>Public Health</b>			
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM advised that the advert for the Designated Social Worker is going out and this will raise the profile of EHCPs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM raised concern around visibility of Richmond Carer Centre. She has made contact with Sarah Barker but has not received any response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grace requested young people involvement in the recruitment process. <b>Action: CM and GO to discuss</b></li> <li>• <b>Action: ID to follow up with Sarah Barker.</b></li> </ul>