

## Attendees

### Parent / carer representatives:

Agnieszka Czerwinska (ACZ)

Bev Pass (BP)

Kacper Rucinski (KP)

Noreen Ahmad (NA)

Annabel Fitzpatrick / Saunders (AS)

Christine Flowers (CF)

### Staff:

Alison Stewart (Designated Clinical Officer, Clinical Commissioning Group) (AS)

Ashley Whittaker (Programme Director) (AW)

Geraldine Burgess (Short Breaks Operations Manager) (GB)

Ian Dodds (Director of Children's Services) (ID)

Jess Thom (Director of Commissioning and Partnerships) (JT)

Jonathan Rourke (SENDIAS)

### Apologies:

Rosy Ahmad (RA)

Charis Penfold (Director of Education Services) (CP)

Cllr Diane White (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services including Education)

Karen Lowry (AfCinfo/SEND Local Offer Website Manager)(KL)

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Owen Hart (OH)

## 1. Welcome and introductions

## 2. Latest Community Health Services Guidance / update on therapy provision

AS: Guidance arrived last week. Important as this is the guidance that local providers work to. Key message is to continue essential services. Specific reference to SEND and EHCPs which is great. Work in partnership with schools and settings through risk assessment. Tribunal process continues. Providers must work with CCG. Children's teams work alongside adults and community teams. This is the go ahead to go back to business as usual. Your Healthcare has developed a recovery plan. From today speech and language therapists going back and face to face where urgent / specialist settings. From 29/6 face to face for priority children. AfC staff have been maintaining face to face in special schools. Occupational therapy still online offer whilst working through return to work action plan. Some schools have expressed concerns about more staff entering site re infection control.

AF: lots of parents will be thinking / asking about SEND without EHCPs? What can we tell parents? What is approach?

AS: approach is supporting all children in key year groups. Will be prioritising EHCPs in first instance but will then be in contact for wider cohort. 15/6 specialist and from 29/6 next phase. If parents have particular concerns, parents should contact services directly.

AF: is this face to face just speech and language?

AS: yes. Occupational therapy still virtual and no dates yet as when will become face to face. Likely to be end of the month.

AW: contact details for services on COVID section of Local Offer website.

AS: will also update the info on this on the Local Offer

## 3. Update on returning to school

ID: Primary schools back after half term. Attendance looking relatively good, just over 3300 children and young people per day, 45/46 schools fully open. 2500 in prioritised year groups, N, R, 1 and 6. About 1/3 N, R, Y1 in school and about 1/2 Y6 in school. In addition 219 with EHCP in school each day. About 15% total EHCPs. Has increased gradually over past week. Secondary schools went back today. Too early to report on numbers. All schools receiving Y10 and Y12. Different models in different schools. Working towards no more than 25% of school in on any one day. Some half days, some over whole week. Waiting on government plans for return in Sept and what that looks like. Only 5 weeks from end of term. Still don't know about recovery teaching over summer holidays.

AC: are schools already planning for Sept? Scenario planning?

ID: yes they planning but so many different factors are uncertain eg reduce social distancing from 2m to less, but yes planning eg, use of other building's (own and community). But need guidance from government

AC: if only 16% of EHCPs attending, schools will have less experience of how to support the children who have not been attending.

ID: agreed. Plus many of the EHCP children are in special schools so mainstream lower.

AC: special schools quite high attendance and mainstream schools finding it more challenging.

ID: yes and early days. And we know that when they get into their stride they will be creative about bringing in more children.

NA: should we prepare now for what will happen in Sept now eg staff numbers? Will there be enough staff for social distanced schools using more rooms / sites? Should the Council have back up preparations so we are ready for that?

ID: challenging for the Council as less role for Council in organising education (not LEA). Up to local gov bodies to make these decisions and schools do different things. What we can do is make sure they know the guidance, sharing best practice, encouraging creative thinking etc. eg primary schools have pulled all staff into supporting children eg lunchtime supervisors.

BP: can you clarify the figures? Are these all children attending or those attending per day. Eg are they based on full attendance or part time?

ID: these are children in school on that day. So if children are 2 or 3 days per week, actually more children than this are going to school for some period.

BP: So it could be eg 30% of EHCP children are getting 2 or 3 days per week. So could be 30% taking up what they are offered.

ID: correct - could be larger number of children attending at some point during the week but don't have that data.

BP: when will there be more certainty about when EHCPs will be fully delivered?

ID: will vary on the local school situation eg buildings, vulnerable children.

BP: what should parents be doing if concerned. Back to school on risk assessments? Still some frustration from parents on this and how they are being done.

ID : starting point is to go to school. We've been clear with parents, and JR / SENDIAS can verify this, that schools must be doing these in conjunction with parents. If still problems with this then yes go to EHCP coordinator, but school should be first point of call.

AC: are parents asking SENDIAS for advice on this?

JR: yes some, plus there is the other route to raise issues via number / form on Local Offer. KL in process of updating this info and explaining multi agency panel will consider.

AS: only one or two have reached this panel

AC: but is this because parents happy or because they don't know how to escalate?

ID: possibly the later

JR: may increase with change in government message. Now schools more open more parents will probably pursue this.

AC: is it different depending on if child is in these priority year groups and others?

JR: schools will be in a difficult position if not taking children with particular needs in priority year groups. Schools will need to think about who they meet those needs.

#### **4. School Risk Assessment template / guidance**

AW: after last meeting guidance and template to schools was shared with AC and BP. Schools don't have to use this, and some schools are doing it differently. Several iterations and continues to be updated.

AC: thank you for sharing. Transparency is very important and helpful. But also reveals that schools not circulating this info to parents. Some relates to escalation route / process. This is sad as useful for parents and without will not know what to do. Concerned that this info is not available to parents

AW: we can escalate and go back to schools to emphasise again that this info must be shared. Other ideas?

BP: one of the ways we have been trying to tackle this information gap was article that was going to every household and letter so that every household would have information. Is there a timeline on that?

AW: checked last week and Council team doing the newsletter still waiting for some information from another department (nothing to do with children) and aiming for end of this week. So is in process and frustration is shared that it is taking longer than expected. Article and advert has been with them for some weeks and we in their hands.

AC: how else can we communicate with parents eg Disability Register

AW: there are a number of different databases. EHCPs we have about 1000 email addresses and about 500 physical addresses. We have the disability register which is relatively small. Then we have the schools SEN Support Registers. We do have their details but not able to currently use for this purpose - BP has said in the past that this should not be a block. But we do have details for those with an EHCP.

AC: so can we send guidelines on risk assessment to the 1000 email addresses?

ID: yes we can. And yes we will do.

AC: JR may receive increase in enquiries.

ID: yes and that is why schools are the primary points of contact because they are best placed to answer questions on particular children. We will send it out.

AC: seems like schools are either censoring information or maybe just too busy to send it out.

ID: I don't think they are censoring things.

NA: may be different for mainstream and special schools. Think with mainstream they are just overwhelmed with stuff and they may just struggle with this type of thing

## **5. Additional short breaks / Aiming High / access to community spaces**

GB: for assessed need support, 48% of hours delivered compared to last year, and most of this drop is the overnight decrease as Warren Park only taking one child. So that accounts for most of the decrease. We've been using direct payments more, using Yorda and other agencies, online support and 1:1 in centre and in children's home. Liaising with schools so if children in school reduce term time support and increase for those not in school. Less good picture on non assessed need / Aiming High as providers are just not working so much more difficult. Activity Fund criteria been changed eg bikes, trampolines, scooters, online licences, electronic gadgets. Now looking at summer as if Fit for Sports, YMCA etc not open need to think about how we can support families. At moment providers are not expecting to be open. Yorda is open (but not for all) and for assessed need are currently planning. Looking at new venues. Activity rooms and old nursery at Moor Lane, also contacting schools to maybe use them to maximise social distancing.

NA: yes special schools is a good idea. Children are familiar with them

GB: special schools were offered at Easter but we didn't need as many families declined to attend.

NA: with Activity Fund, lots used last year for Merlin pass. These have not been used. Understand that Chessington World of Adventures extended, but it will be so busy very hard for SEND children. Maybe we could negotiate with them to have special SEND days or times? Needs to be ASD friendly. Hectic for everyone and even harder for them.

GB: yes we can speak to them.

AW: re community spaces. Been speaking to Council re accessing playgrounds for SEND families. Outcome is whilst government guidelines say need to be closed not looking like we will then be able to do this. Speaking to Royal Parks, Head of Learning for Royal Parks and i/c Richmond Park. They same on playgrounds, but already thinking about equal access and using areas like Isabella and Pembroke Lodge.

GB: Transport from gate to Isabella also an issue.

AC: Blue Badge holders need transport. Sheen Gate car park access is OK for Richmond families but for Kingston parents less good. Tried Ladderstile Ride Gate as less busy but nowhere to park. Once in park good experience as no cars and plenty of space for social distancing. So if was access to parking things would be much better.

AW: I will raise this with Royal Parks, eg for Blue Badge access.

AC: what about access via Ham gate to Isabella and Pembroke Lodge? Specific routes for Blue Badge. And what about parking at Warren Park as right by Ladderstile Ride Gate?

GB: I will ask them

## **6. Practicalities of capturing parent / carer voice**

BP: in coming year / months looking to update SEND Transformation Plan and lots of different areas for parents to contribute to. Each workstream could have eg two parents assigned. Sounds great but in reality what are we doing to enable parents to commit their time and energy and find space and time to do this. Many of us are very busy, working, looking after our children, etc. Agree with principle of including, but how do we enable this? What is payback for parents? How do we help them to carve this time out of their schedule? We need to make sure this is not a barrier to capturing their voice. Need to think about how we do this properly to get enough of their voices. PCF already stretched for time and not clear how we can do all this extra work. Do people have ideas on this?

AW: Lots of opportunities eg new commissioning of short breaks, therapies, post 16 pathways etc

AC: easiest way to get parents involved is when they voice a request, and if then delivered, that success is the best way to get them involved, as shows it is worth it and not a waste of time.

AS: Building on that, important that agendas are as applied and practical as possible. Because protocols and plans lose parents and feels like they one or two steps away from delivering tangible change that helps their children. This meeting is very interesting and helpful as we're talking about really applied and practical things. Agenda planning and how that is managed is important as makes parents feel like they can actually influence change. The other thing is providing access to the right people. So make space at the end of the meeting for parents to speak to professionals about individual context for their own children. So if they do have a particular concern they can raise that, not in the main meeting, but afterwards. That access to professionals is attractive to parents.

## **7. Updated Kingston SEND Transformation / Futures Plan**

AW: draft update of Kingston SEND Transformation Plan coming out in early July and Council Committee in Oct. Will circulate and ask for feedback.

AC: where does the Plan come from?

AW: stems from 2018, schools, agencies, consultation with schools and parents and went to Committee in Feb 2019. Significant changes have happened. Brings existing plan up to date.

AS: we have opened a survey for parents and need to include priorities in the Plan and keep conversation open to include ongoing feedback from parents in ongoing joint working.

## **8. AOB:**

a.

AC: Data on online learning? How many children are accessing?

NA: think individual schools are collecting.

ID: no we don't collect that data and mixed picture.

NA: big issue when more than one child. 1 tablet and three children. So much online stuff. Lots of families don't have enough resources for this. Need a survey to every SEN family to ask them what resources they have for their children and young people

B.

JR: exemptions to face masks on public transportation now out. See link on SENDIAS facebook page.

## **8. Next meeting**

Monday 29 June, 11.30