

## Kingston SEND Partnership Board

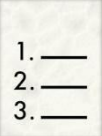

	Thursday 12 November 2020, 10-12pm
	Virtual via Google Meets



## Members

Ian Thomas, Chair	<b>IT</b>	Chief Executive	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Alison Stewart	<b>AS</b>	Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	South West London Clinical Commissioning Group (Kingston)
Alison Twynam	<b>AT</b>	Director Children's Social Care	Achieving for Children
Anna Chiva	<b>AC</b>	Associate Director for Special Educational Needs	Achieving for Children
Ashley Whittaker	<b>AW</b>	Programme Director	Achieving for Children
Beverley Pass	<b>BP</b>	Parent Representative	Parent Carer Forum
Brian Gale	<b>BG</b>	SEND Professional Adviser	Department for Education
Cllr Diane White	<b>DW</b>	Portfolio Holder Children's Services including Education	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

George Chaplin	<b>GC</b>	Participation Member	
Grace Over	<b>GO</b>	Participation Officer for Children & Young People with SEND	Achieving for Children
Helen Green	<b>HG</b>	SEND Support Broker	Kingston Centre for Independent Living
Ian Dodds	<b>ID</b>	Director of Children's Services	Achieving for Children
Jane Spencer	<b>JS</b>	Non-Executive Director	Achieving for Children
Jason Lamont	<b>JM</b>	Chief Executive Officer	Kingston Centre for Independent Living
Jessica Thom	<b>JT</b>	Director of Commissioning and Partnerships	Achieving for Children
Jonathan Brown	<b>JB</b>	Corporate Head of Service - Learning Disability & Transition, Locality Team Hubs	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Jonathan Rourke	<b>JR</b>	SENDIASS Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston	SENDIASS
Karen Long	<b>KL</b>	Service Lead, Frontline Services	Your Healthcare
Laura Smyth	<b>LS</b>	Chief Executive Officer	Yorda Adventures
Leigh Edser	<b>LE</b>	Principal	Dysart School
Louise Kearney	<b>LK</b>	Parent Representative	Parent Carer Forum
Nigel Evason	<b>NE</b>	Head of Children, Mental Health and Learning Disability	South West London Clinical Commissioning Group (Kingston)
Rachel Dawson	<b>RD</b>	Designated Social Care Officer for SEND	Achieving for Children
Rachel Nye	<b>RN</b>	Headteacher	Tolworth Infant and Junior School
Sian Wicks	<b>SW</b>	Non-Executive Director	Achieving for Children
Stuart Sweeney	<b>SS</b>	Lay Member (Social Investment Sector)	
Tonia Michaelides	<b>TM</b>	Executive Locality Director (Kingston)	South West London CCG
<b>Apologies</b>			
Alison Danks	<b>AD</b>	Associate Director for Health Services	Achieving for Children
Charis Penfold	<b>CP</b>	Director for Education Services	Achieving for Children
Claire Deadman	<b>CD</b>	Nursery Manager	One Nine Seven Early Years Nursery
Elizabeth Broadhurst	<b>EB</b>	Interim Children's Commissioner	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Iona Lidington	<b>IL</b>	Director of Public Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Martin Ellis	<b>ME</b>	Interim Director of Commissioning & Transformation	South West London Clinical Commissioning Group
Peter Mayhew-Smith	<b>PMS</b>	Group Principal and CEO	South Thames Colleges Group
Sarah Ireland	<b>SI</b>	Director of Corporate and Commercial	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sean Maher	<b>SM</b>	Headmaster	Richard Challoner School

	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b> 
1.	<p><b><i>Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies</i></b></p> <p>IT welcomed the Board and apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p><b><i>SEND Futures Plan Update and Q2 Dashboard – Both documents were distributed prior to the meeting.</i></b></p> <p><b>AW</b> highlighted key points from the SEND Futures Plan. The plan has been updated and was endorsed by the Council’s Children’s and Adults’ Care and Education Committee on 10 November 2020. Currently the plan does not have a deficit management plan as an appendix, this is due to ongoing discussions with the Department of Education. <b>AW</b> noted that the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are different to the previous KPIs and they also differ to those noted in the RBK SEND Board Performance Dashboard. The proposal is to update the Dashboard so that it accurately reflects the changes in the updated plan and data is aligned. It was noted that we need to be forensic in tracking the performance of the Transformation Programme and identify areas where we need to focus.</p> <p><b>Workstream One Update – Co-production, engagement and participation – GO</b> explained that the involvement of the children and young people (CYP) is detailed in the report. <b>GO</b> highlighted feedback about the updated SEND Futures Plan from CYP around “Outcomes”. They were unhappy about some of the language used in the original version of the draft update and so changes proposed by them are included in the final version. For example even though they are ambitious they do face a number of barriers and they felt that this was originally not reflected in the outcomes framework document. CYP also made it clear that they felt a better word than “vulnerable” would be the word “needs”.</p>	

**AW** thanked the Parent Carer Forum for the time they have taken in establishing the PCF, which is invaluable in helping us hear the voices of children, parents and carers. There is still work to do. **AW** highlighted some key points from the update report, there are now named representatives for each of the priorities for co-production. The group meets monthly with AfC, the CCG and the wider parent consortium. In September there was a focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health, with representation from different providers. In October there was a focus on SEND and Social Care. The plan moving forward is to increase the number and diversity of parents we are engaging with across the system and ensure we include the cohort of CYP with SEND who do not have an EHC plan. **BP** noted that parents are giving a lot of their time to co-production and we need to be mindful of the amount of impact these extra contributions are making to our services. These parents are busy with their own jobs and are also looking after their children and services need to demonstrate to them the impact of their contributions.

**Workstream Two Update – Joint Commissioning – AW** noted that the SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy has been finalised and published on the Local Offer. The Therapies Review is at the implementation stage and returning to the Schools Forum on 24 November 2020. There will be a workshop, date to be agreed, including parents, around the recommissioning of the Short Breaks Provision.

**Workstream Three Update – Local provision – AW** recognised the huge amount of hard work our school community are doing to keep children and young people in school in difficult circumstances. **RN** noted that schools are trying hard to achieve the best for our children and working hard to keep children in school during a difficult year. It is working well, but is not easy and it is difficult with the new guidance rules. The commitment is there to ensure that all children and young people receive what they need.

**AW** continued, school place planning and provision of specialist places, the percentage of EHCPs placed in independent non-maintained special school sector has gone below 10%. Continues to head in the direction of the national average of 5%, having come down from over 15%. **AW** noted that the School Place Planning Strategy was discussed at the recent Children’s and Adults’ Care

and Education Committee and there is a strong SEND element to the planning strategy, which shows how well it is embedded in the wider planning.

**AW** also noted the planning around a second satellite for Dysart, which is for children with complex needs, this project reflects the demand that is coming through the system.

**AW** highlighted the ongoing work around the Post 16 Campus. **BG** commented that this is an innovative project and the integrated approach has generated a lot of interest amongst colleagues, it will be good to see it moving forward and developing and, if successful, sharing as best practice.

**KL** from Yourhealthcare presented a children's speech and language therapy referral, wait list and investment update, please refer to the attached presentation for details. **SW** asked what the targets are for reducing the speech and language waiting times to four weeks and noted the results were not detailed in the dataset. **KL** explained that the aim is to significantly reduce the waiting times, currently the plan is to give realistic targets for the end of this year. **AW** noted that the data, that was unavailable when the report was published, is now available and in the previous financial year those waiting more than four weeks for a first appointment was 81% and in quarter two this year is 78%. Those waiting more than 16 weeks, in the previous financial year was 53% and now 65%. **Cllr White** noted the positive work that is being carried out, but as a Board what can be done collaboratively to help moving forward. **KL** noted the funding from the Therapies Review was helpful. There were issues with staff capacity and with the recent recruitment this should improve, but what would be helpful is to look at what we have achieved and are we moving in the right direction. It was agreed that this area will be revisited at the Board meeting in January. **LK** noted that the PCF have received feedback that some children have had issues accessing speech and language therapy and asked if the route to referral is clear. **KL** noted they are not aware of any issues and suggested discussing with **LK** outside of the Board. **JR** requested that SENDIASS also be part of that conversation.

**Workstream Five Update – Local provision** – **AC** noted that there are improvements in the new EHCPs and the Quality Assurance Framework, which is multi-agency, and showing improvements

	<p>with tracking and training staff. There are areas for development, in terms of specificity and ensuring the voice of the young person is clear and evident and also making sure there are detailed outcomes. The positive impact of joint working with other services and CYP is now becoming evident.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><i>Deep dive into two areas in Kingston's Local Area SEND Inspection Written Statement of Action - Please see presentation attached for detail.</i></p> <p><i>a) The strategic leadership and monitoring of the CCG's work in implementing the 2014 reforms.</i></p> <p><b>TM</b> presented a CCG update on Area 3 <i>“The CCG is committed to ensuring the commissioning and delivery of high quality health services for parents/carers and children and young people with special education needs and disability that results in improved outcomes and life chances through exceeding where necessary our statutory duties and responsibilities outlined in the Children &amp; Families Act 2014.”</i> Please see presentation attached for detail.</p> <p><b>SS</b> asked how comfortable are the CCG on the quality control of therapy delivery and do you have the right outcomes to monitor. <b>AS</b> explained that there are ongoing discussions about the right outcomes to monitor for therapies in terms of the SEND agenda. Focus needs to be beyond waiting times for referrals to assessment. We need to look at the impact of early intervention, which links to the wider agenda and outcomes. <b>AC</b> asked do the CCG feel that they have capacity to delivery to the SEND agenda and provide impact for the re-inspection. <b>NE</b> noted that they are confident and a new colleague is starting shortly, who will focus on the children's agenda. It is also about getting the provision of service correct in terms of specificity and all services and systems working together in partnership and being clear, realistic and not over ambitious. <b>GO</b> noted that CYP are keen to be involved in the training with GPs. <b>TM</b> noted that there is a GP membership meeting of 20 plus GPs and suggested that this would be an appropriate meeting to attend. <b>TM / GO</b> to discuss arrangements. <b>CLlr White</b> asked for more details regarding the review of the neurodevelopment pathways. <b>NE</b> explained that there has been a national, regional and local drive on this area recently in terms of challenges. In Kingston there are three different elements</p>	

including the community paediatricians, the Emotional Health Service and South West London St Georges. **NE** explained that the three elements need to come together to review how the pathways flows and the plan is to work with the South West London colleagues to get an overview of what action needs to be taken and then work with our local providers to redesign that pathway.

**IT** asked **BG** to share his point regarding re-inspection. **BG** noted that the inspectors will probably note that a lot of activity has taken place, but what they will be interested in is what difference has been made to the lives of CYP with SEND. We need to be focussed on strong outcomes. **BG** suggested that it would be worthwhile thinking about the new inspection framework and the review of case studies around CYP and services working together. It might be helpful to look at cases involving CYP and their experience assessing therapies and what difference it has made. The inspection report referred to families waiting a long time for Speech and Language assessments, to demonstrate sufficient progress Kingston will need to show they are addressing this.

There was a short break.

***b) To ensure that there is a productive and positive relationship between parents and parent representatives, including a parent carer forum.***

**AW** gave an update on working in partnerships with the Parent Carer Forum. Please see presentation attached for detail.

**LK** noted that the Consortium meetings are appreciated, especially during lockdown, to keep up to date with what was going on, the information was shared with a wider audience. **BP** noted that relationships are good with all services and in a positive position. **LK** commented on the relaunch of the Kingston SEND Register and the plan to contact 4,000 families to ask them to register on the Kingston SEND Register and making them aware that their feedback can be linked in with the PCF and could this be done in partnership. **AW** explained that the plan was to send a joint letter from **ID**, Director of Children's Service, **TM**, Managing Director – CCG, **Cllr White** and **BP**, Chair of the PCF. It will include a signpost to the PCF and the Local Offer.

	<p>JR noted that the Consortium meetings were helpful and supportive in gaining a better understanding of challenges in Kingston and has formed positive links between PCF and SENDIASS. JB commented that in Adult Social Care they work with MENCAP and young people with learning disabilities and it would be good to see more join up between the PCF and voluntary sector group's active in the adult world, in particular for transitions.</p> <p>IT asked how feedback from parents is captured. AC explained that a survey is used asking parents for feedback at multiple stages throughout the EHCP process including new EHCPs and at an Annual Review. The feedback dropped during lockdown and the team are now following this up. The feedback is helpful as it picks on key challenges and issues that are system wide. One area of the survey that needs to be reflected on in the survey is being open and saying what you mean/think, which can be difficult if you have been working closely with a co-coordinator, this is an area where AC and the PCF will work together to reflect on the best outcome. Kingston has a higher feedback rate than other local authorities, but it is still relatively low. The themes that are coming through are communication and the challenges around contacting your co-ordinator when you need them, also the lack of someone taking a lead, e.g. where multi agencies are involved in a complex plan there is not a lead to ensure all elements are taken forward. To help with this AC / AS are developing a process to provide a SEND advocate in each service area to help take this forward.</p>	
4.	<p><b><i>Minutes from 16 September 2020 meeting and actions not otherwise covered</i></b></p> <p>The minutes from 16 September 2020 were approved.</p> <p>Kirsty's video will be circulated shortly. AW will share the letter of thanks to Kirsty, which GO helped complete to make it accessible to Kirsty.</p>	



5. ***Forward Plan***

**AC** asked to revisit the Outcomes Framework in terms of the Post 16 provision and working with Adult Social Care and agreeing shared outcome and what those principles are.

**AW** noted that it was agreed that areas one and two of the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) will be discussed at the January 2021 Board.

**AW** asked the Board to note the number of suggestions at the September Board including re-inspection readiness work, which was discussed today and planned for January 2021. **GC** had suggested and Deep Dive into the Post 16 Offer and SEND Support, which could be prepared for the March 2021. There was also a suggestion around the Local Offer and Communication, which could also be a suggestion for March 2021. **GO** asked if the communications item could be widened to include CYP. **IT** agreed that this was a good idea and commented that it is important, as a Board, to remember and understand our vision and the high aspirations we have for our CYP.

**BP** commented that there was a focus on the PCF challenges and desires today, but is unclear about what happens now about demonstrating process. One of the criticisms from parents is that there seems to be a lot discussion and nothing moves forward. **IT** explained that there is a detailed Action Plan and a Transformation Plan, the update was not discussed today because the agenda was to focus on the deep dive into areas three and four of the WSOA. The Action Plan, which details activity at a granular level in terms of what needs to be done to improve outcomes for CYP is an ongoing piece of work at a multi-agency level. **IT** asked **AW** to give a brief summary on the progress of the Transformation Plan, which can be shared with the PCF. **AW** explained that: -

Workstream One is about engagement and is the work being completed in area four, discussed today.

	<p>Workstream Two is around the Joint Commissioning Strategy, which was discussed at the September Board.</p> <p>Workstream Three is around Local Provision, the four areas include specialist school places, Post 16 provision, Therapies Review and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health.</p> <p>Workstream Four is around early intervention and transitions. The addition to the new plan is the first 1,000 days, which was on hold during lockdown, but will be revisited soon. There is a lot of work around early intervention, working with schools and vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Workstream Five is about assessment and planning. This is the work being completed in areas one and two around EHCPs and Annual Reviews, which is the deep dive planned for the January 2021 Board.</p> <p>The regular update report covers each of these areas in detail at each Board. The reports have been to the Children’s and Adults’ Care and Education Committee and will return in six months for an update and they have also been to the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p><b>AW</b> noted that after this Board the regular bi-monthly DfE / NHS / AfC update meeting is planned, where the discussion will focus on the draft report about the impact statements of the self-assessment. <b>ID</b> commented that there has been ongoing work on the impact statements around the WSOA priorities to show what we have done and what difference it has made to CYP and families and how do we know it is improving and what evidence can we show to demonstrate the difference it has made. <b>ID</b> suggested that once discussions are complete regarding the four areas in the WSOA, it would be helpful to return to the Board to review how we demonstrate the impact we have made. It was noted that it would be helpful to share Case Studies.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b><i>Any other Business</i></b></p> <p><b>TM</b> noted that the NHS have moved back into Level 4, but noted that this time business continues and services are still accessible, but if there are any issues please make them aware.</p>	

	<p>There were comments regarding the Covid vaccine and the challenges for the SEND cohort. <b>TM</b> noted that the vaccine is for those aged 18 plus and not available for CPY under the age of 18. The vaccine will be given to priority cohorts by age, starting with those in care homes. Health and key workers will also be in the first cohorts. <b>TM</b> commented that working in SEND is a challenge, but in terms of risk, the risk is generally low.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>IT thanked everyone for all the ongoing hard work in a very unusual year. The resilience of our CYP and parents and carers cannot be overstated and many thanks to everyone across all services who help take plans forward. There were some interesting themes in the meeting today and highlighted that we continue to learn from young people, this showed in the feedback from <b>GO</b> and <b>GC</b>, that reminded us we should look at the barriers our CYP face as well as listening to their ambitions. The feedback from the young people about the term vulnerable not been used should be noted, Caroline Marks commented recently that our CYP are valuable and perhaps we should start to use that term. Even though progress has been made around the waiting times for speech and language, it is still a concern, the Board members are the most senior people across the whole system and we need to ensure we make progress in reducing the waiting times. Whether or not it is a key area of focus in the re-inspection, it is the right thing to do to improve the lives of our CYP, so it needs to improve and will be brought back to the next Board for discussion. <b>IT</b> noted the request from the PCF for a separate meeting with him. <b>NG</b> to liaise. <b>IT</b> commented that he will look forward to the meeting and has great admiration for all the work that the PCF do. It is heartening to see the progress made by the PCF and your time and energy is very much appreciated. It would be good to try and start re-planning the formal launch of the PCF, which was postponed due to lockdown. Covid 19 is not an excuse, but a reality, is something that we should note and we must show the impact that we have made. Let's move towards a "You said, we did" response, platitude was a comment used by a parent recently and if that is the perception then it needs to be addressed. The Board needs to evidence that its members are listening to what they are being told and responding accordingly.</p>	

**KINGSTON SEND Partnership Board will next meet on:**

**NB. Electronic invites have been sent.**

**21 January 2021, 12.30-2.30pm – Venue TBC**