



## Kingston SEND Partnership Board

	<p>Wednesday 14 July 2021, 10-12pm</p>
	<p>Virtual via Google Meets</p>

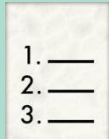



## Members

Ian Thomas, Chair	<b>IT</b>	Chief Executive	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Alison Danks	<b>AD</b>	Associate Director for Health Services	Achieving for Children
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

Carmel Brady	<b>CB</b>	Speech & Language Therapist Lead for Children's Services	Your Healthcare CIC
Charis Penfold	<b>CP</b>	Director for Education Services	Achieving for Children
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	
Georgina Andrews	<b>GA</b>	Head of Practice Learning	Achieving for Children
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
Jonathan Rourke	<b>JR</b>	SENDIASS Coordinator for Richmond and Kingston	SENDIASS
Judith Mobbs	<b>JM</b>	SEND Professional Adviser	Department for Education
Karel Stevens-Lee	<b>KS-L</b>	Deputy Head of Transformation – Children's Services Lead	South West London Clinical Commissioning Group (Kingston)
Martin Ellis	<b>ME</b>	Director of Commissioning & Transformation	South West London Clinical Commissioning Group
Nikki Craig	<b>NC</b>	Head of HR, Corporate Projects and IT	Achieving for Children
Nigel Evason	<b>NE</b>	Head of Children, Mental Health and Learning Disability	South West London Clinical Commissioning Group (Kingston)
Sean Maher	<b>SM</b>	Headmaster	Richard Challoner School
Sharon Houlden	<b>SH</b>	Executive Director for Social Care and Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Stuart Sweeney	<b>SS</b>	Lay Member (Social Investment Sector)	
Terry Tottman		Commissioning Manager	Achieving for Children
<b>Apologies</b>			
Claire Deadman	<b>CD</b>	Nursery Manager	One Nine Seven Early Years Nursery
Elizabeth Broadhurst	<b>EB</b>	Interim Children's Commissioner	Exec Dir for Social care and Health
Iona Lidington	<b>IL</b>	Director of Public Health	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Jane Bearman	<b>JB</b>	Assistant Director, Adult Services	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Jonathan Brown	<b>JB</b>	Corporate Head of Service - Learning Disability & Transition, Locality Team Hubs	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Judith Mobbs	<b>JM</b>	SEND Professional Adviser	Department for Education
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
Michael Smith	<b>MS</b>	Associate Director for Finance	Achieving for Children
Peter Mayhew-Smith	<b>PMS</b>	Group Principal and CEO	South Thames Colleges Group

Rachel Nye	<b>RN</b>	Headteacher	Tolworth Infant and Junior School
Sarah Ireland	<b>SI</b>	Director of Corporate and Commercial	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Sian Wicks	<b>SW</b>	Non-Executive Director	
Tonia Michaelides	<b>TM</b>	Executive Locality Director (Kingston)	South West London CCG

 1. — 2. — 3. — <b>Minutes</b>		<b>Action</b> 
1.	<p><b><i>Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies</i></b></p> <p>IT welcomed the Board, apologies and introductions noted. IT noted the apologies from the school leaders, it is a busy time of year, especially at the moment, and thanked them for their hard work and contributions.</p>	
2.	<p><b><i>Children and young people update</i></b></p> <p>GO noted that CYP are continuing to feel involved, this is through the Recruits Crew, delivering training and participating in consultations, and noted that there were approx. 58 CYP involved in the Short Breaks consultation. The CYP have requested feedback on the plans for the Kingfisher Leisure Site and asked that this is made as accessible as possible. GO noted that the CYP will be preparing a response regarding the Kingfisher Leisure Site.</p> <p>CB noted the point made at the March Board around using the correct terminology, highlighting the difference between autism spectrum condition (ASC) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and the effect that describing it as a ‘disorder’ has on young and the need to use ASC not ASD. This point has queried by the paediatricians at Moor Lane, with regards to the diagnostic label, who have to follow guidance. <b>Action - It was agreed to discuss this area at the September Board.</b></p>	

GC asked for an update in regard to the waiting times for the Emotional Health Service, specifically for Tier 2. CP noted that referrals are continuing to increase. The EHS are struggling with capacity due to the large number of referrals coming through. They are a creative service and are working hard to find a way through and are continually monitoring the waiting list. A member of the team has been tasked with overseeing the list, contacting and working with the CYP and families on the waiting list to keep in touch, offer support and the opportunity to participate in group sessions, but sadly the waiting lists are not currently reducing. CP noted that high referrals are also an issue in neighbouring boroughs. Schools are being proactive and signposting YP to online support. NE added that the CCG are very aware of the increasing waiting lists, which have increased during lockdown and noted that CAMHS are not just supporting CYP with emotional and mental health, but also CYP with learning disabilities, autism, and eating disorders. CYP are not just presenting mental health needs, but also other needs. The whole area is extremely complex and all services are working together to assess individual cases and what is the most appropriate support / plan. Investment has been agreed, this is for a small team who will review CYP with more complex needs, which will release capacity in other areas who will be able to focus on CYP with mental health needs. There is also investment for the CAMHS SPA. NE suggested a presentation at the next board around what has happened as a result for the pandemic, what the investment is and what the plans are moving forward. **Action – The Board agreed to a presentation about the waiting times for emotional and mental health support, investment and future plans at the September Board.**

SS asked what the CAMHS funding for Kingston looks like now compared to 5 years ago. NE explained that there has been year on year investments, it is a national priority, so there is specific money made available. **Action - NE offered to provide more specific information from the SWL CCG.** After discussion, IT noted that the figures may not show a reduction in cash terms, but a reduction in investment per capita, so increases are not in-line with demand and the amount of support per child will have reduced.

	<p>IT noted the link to the Kingfisher Leisure facility, it is important to build a leisure facility which is inclusive, and asked the Board to encourage people to engage and participate in the planning sessions. It is important to get this right for our CYP.</p> <p>Please see link = <a href="https://transformkingston.co.uk/">https://transformkingston.co.uk/</a></p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><b><i>Parent and carer update</i></b></p> <p><b>BP</b> gave an update on PCF activities. <b>BP</b> noted thanks from the PCF for the additional funding, which has allowed them to build capacity amongst the PCF parents in order to contribute more to the co-production agenda. <b>BP</b> remains as the Chair, but now there are two additional posts, which will help lead on different areas on co-production. The group are currently thinking about the aims and priorities that they would like to take forward. <b>BP</b> has been working with <b>AW</b> on the job description for the Kingston Parent Participation Officer, which will be advertised shortly. The PCF have been running a series of Occupational Therapy workshops X5 and will be asking for feedback from participants and what else can be done. The PCF are also planning “Share and Care” sessions, initially these will be monthly, parents have found that support from other parents is helpful and the plan is to share advice and helpful information. There are also plans for Nutrition Workshops in the autumn term. The launch event is planned for October 2021 at Chessington World of Adventure. The plan is to use the welcome area as a place where partners can promote services.</p> <p><b>AW</b> noted two points, firstly that the PCF have been very honest with AfC and agreed with proposed plans, but the plans now need to actually happen e.g. the Participation Officer and Outreach. Secondly, <b>AW</b> noted that at the recent monthly meeting thanks and congratulations were extended to the PCF for what they have achieved during the pandemic.</p> <p><b>IT</b> noted that one area highlighted in the Peer Review was co-production and does <b>BP</b> agree that this is happening. <b>BP</b> agreed that we are moving in a positive direction, but there is still progress to be made. <b>BP</b> noted that parents do feel listened to and changes, as a result of their feedback,</p>	

	<p>can be evidenced in some areas of improvement. It was noted that we need to agree what we mean by co-production and when to take it forward e.g. asking parents to attend a complex professionals meeting is not a good use of their time. It is also not helpful to ask for their comments about a document after it has been written, it would be more productive to do this beforehand. CP noted that a co-production document does exist, which explains the levels and tiers of co-production and it also explains the difference between co-production and engagement and which areas we should fully co-produce and what those levels and tiers look like and also areas for engagement or consultation. <b>Action – AW to revisit the document for review.</b></p> <p><b>Action – IT to write to the PCF to express his thanks on behalf of the council = Completed – 22.07.21.</b></p>	
4.	<p><b><i>SEND Futures Plan update and Dashboard</i></b> – For full details please refer to the documents circulated prior to the Board.</p> <p>AW noted that the SEND Futures plan was considered by the Peoples Committee in June and was endorsed. The key change was the addition of Annex One, this includes the projections and forecasts that were discussed with the DfE around the Safety Value Agreement. The first round of quarterly reporting, which was one of the conditions of the agreement, has taken place. In summary the report noted that there is a good level of confidence that the terms of the agreement will be met in this financial year and the DfE have transferred the first instalment. Important to note that some areas are a challenge, as the Board are responsible for overseeing the plan, it must be aware of these areas. The areas are:- Commissioning, to be discussed at Workstream 2 update, and the Ofsted / CQC revisit, which has not taken place, it was noted that this will probably be early in the autumn term. Noted that the Richmond LA SEND Inspection took place during the week beginning 14 June 2021.</p> <p><b>Workstream One</b> – GO and GC gave an update at Item 2 around the work of the CYP. Work with parents and carers, AW noted the identified priorities for joint working - Engagement and outreach, including diversity, and communications, The Coram Parent Champions scheme, improving therapy provision, developing the Outcomes Framework, improving the SEN Support</p>	

Offer. Dr Jo Steer's attended the Consortium meeting in June where it was agreed to add a further priority - Support for parent carer emotional wellbeing.

**Workstream Two** – Joint Commissioning. **AW** noted that two SEN Placement Commissioning Managers are being recruited to build and improve our commissioning practice, there will also be a Lead Commissioning role advertised. All three roles are essential and it is important to find the right people who will help address this area, which is flagged as Amber.

**Workstream Three** – Local provision. Already discussed earlier, but **AW** noted that there is a robust plan in place, but it must be delivered due to the increase in numbers of CYP who need access to these services is on the increase. Another important point to note is the increase in the number of local specialist places in our special schools and specialist resource provisions. Thanks to school and council colleagues who have helped ensure they open on time in the new academic year in September 2021.

**Workstream Four** – Early Intervention and Transitions. A lot of ongoing work around the first 1,000 Days, Early Help Resilience Network and Quality First Teaching Inclusion Charter and the Transitions protocol. The progress made is thanks to Sheldon Snashall, AD for Pupil Support, who has been with AfC a year and Roberta Evans, AD for Early Help, who has been with AfC for 6 months. This is a good example of proving that having the right people in place has a big impact on moving plans forward. There is a concern around the increase in the Emotionally Related School Avoidance cases and also the increase in numbers of CYP with challenging behaviour and mental health and the need to make sure local provision can support them appropriately.

**Workstream Five** – Assessment and planning. Work continues around the development work on the Holistic Outcomes Framework and the Quality Assurance process. Also working with partners around the quality and timeliness of their advice for EHCPs. The total number of EHCPs in Kingston over the last 12 months has increased by 7%, this is also the percentage in the Safety Valve Agreement that we have committed to deliver and is below national average, which is 10.4% for 2020.

**Dataset** – This is a new format, as a result of feedback. Please let **AW** know if there any comments / suggestions. **AW** noted that the growth and expenditure of EHCPs are on track, less EHCPs were issued than forecast and we have also ceased slightly less than forecast.

**IT** noted the item around placement costs and asked what is being done to improve and reduce the cost of placements. **AW** noted 2 key areas, firstly recruiting the X3 commissioning posts, who will have the expertise to make sure that we are negotiating as well as we can, they will also work together with the South London Commissioning Partnership. Secondly, an area which is already been worked on, and was highlighted in the LGO Report, is the 16-25 provision. A large proportion of the total number of plans we have are in this area, we need to develop these pathways, particularly vocational pathways. **AC** noted that developing our contracts with providers will help in this area, which is currently weak. **AfC** are also working with all partners, including Adult Social Care on the sufficiency and planning to provide better outcomes. **ID** noted that CYPs behaviour has become more challenging during lockdown and parents are struggling to cope with and manage, resulting in an increase in requests for those children to become looked after by the local authority under Section 20. This is putting pressure on joint placements across education, health and social care. The Joint Agency Panel manages this process, but the increase must be noted.

**GC** noted the 7% increase in the total number of EHCPs in Kingston, presuming this is lower in terms of EHCP growth, and what are the reasons for this, is it due to the success of the early intervention work. Related to this why are needs assessments being declined and why the decision not to issue an EHCP is higher than the national average. **AW** explained, for the first point, that the early intervention work is the reason. Early intervention identifies needs and puts suitable strategies in place earlier, combined with the work in schools and our multi-agency work with health and social care, is resulting in the number of children requiring an EHCP to be less than the national average. Second point, in Q1 the number of assessments declined was higher than the national average, the decision to decline an assessment was also higher than the national average. **AC** noted that due to lockdown parents and schools have been unable to access intervention and a graduated response. Some requests have been made without evidence of a graduated response or they are concerned about progress as a result of not being in school. **AfC** have been working with parents and schools and guiding them to the early help support services



which they can access over time and then reassess their request. This is probably the reason for the peak this term.

**Cllr White** asked about 1. Ceasing of EHCPs. 2. KPI 39 (Number of children and young people accessing CAMHS Tier 2 (Emotional Health Service) mental health support increases) = Is this access or actual referrals. 3. Short Breaks consultation update and noted the responses were disappointingly low. 1. **AC** noted the ongoing work on holistic outcomes and prioritising Year 9 and 11 reviews and articulating realistic pathways and outcomes. Currently a lot of outcomes are academic focused, but are now focussing on realistic life pathways and destinations and working closely with our college partners to start planning outcomes in year one of a three year course. The Preparing for Adulthood Team are working on specialist apprenticeships. Commissioning is closely monitored. **AC** explained that before ceasing an EHCP we are ensuring that the YP has a realistic purposeful destination so that they have positive life outcomes. **Action – AC to share paper that was presented to the Schools Forum.** 2. **Action – AW to confirm the definition for KPI 39.** 3. Short Breaks, there will be a report circulated at the next Board.

**SM** commented on the rate of increase in EHCPs is reducing, but noted that schools are seeing a number of children with high levels of need and additional support, which is reflected in the EHCP assessment requests that are coming through, this is having an impact and a significant issue for schools. **IT** noted the pressure on SEN Support. **SM** also noted the comment about behaviour issues and confirmed that all Kingston schools have noticed a rise in anxiety and challenging behaviour.

**BG** noted that, in regard to EHCP numbers, it may be helpful to note that Kingston is not an outlier regarding the proportion of children and young people with EHCPs. The DfE's High Needs benchmarking tool shows 30.9 EHCPs per 1,000 2-18 population in Kingston. This compares with 29.7 for its 10 closest statistic neighbours and 31.1 for outer London.

## 5. LGA SEND Peer Review, findings and next steps

IT asked ID to incorporate the learning from the Richmond LA SEND Inspection into this item. ID agreed and noted that there is some correlation in the findings from the Kingston Peer Review and the Richmond inspection.

Starting with the Kingston Peer Review ID noted the LGA sent the draft report on 12.07.21. The report will be shared once factual checks have been completed and noted that BP will be part of this process. There are 10 recommendations that need to be reviewed, 4 were around process, these were about our governance process and ensuring they focus on delivery, rather than seeking approval of the plan. One point was about the Schools Forum and whether it should be more focussed on the High Needs Block and suggested setting up a sub-group around High Needs. Improving communication on peoples understanding of the plan so that they understand what they are responsible for and are actively involved in delivery. ID suggested discussing the outcomes for CYP rather than the processes. The 5 areas are – Co-production with parents and carers, CYP and other partner agencies. There is a recommendation about parental confidence in the Local Offer and what needs to happen for this to be seen across the system, SEND support for children in mainstream schools. Transition Planning, especially for Post 16. How we reach out and engage with Black, Asian and Ethnic communities around SEND Provision.

Richmond Inspection – ID noted that it was a full and fair inspection by Ofsted and the CQC. They could see progress since 2014 and in particular since 2018. They found areas where we have made steady progress, but felt that pace could have been quicker, this included co-production and Annual Reviews. The area they have asked us to focus on is Transitions across all phases. This correlates with what inspectors found in Richmond and the Peer Review found in Kingston. This area will sit within the Local Provision Workstream.

IT noted his thanks to the team around inspections, it is difficult for teams as they cover two local authorities and there are a lot of inspections, and their hard work is appreciated.

**IT** asked **BP** about her involvement in the Peer Review and was it helpful. **BP** noted that it was valuable to be involved and a good opportunity for input and our voice was heard. The PCF are particularly keen to focus on the recommendations around appropriate SEND Support, outreach and communications.

**AW** shared the Jamboard. The Board divided into four groups and discussed the 5 areas on slides 4-9 and noted their ideas on the Jamboard. The points noted will be taken forward.

[https://jamboard.google.com/d/1WYelvjOo7wNsZe5woNlw0lGova\\_07gWTvqlpvi5uUk8/edit?usp=haring](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1WYelvjOo7wNsZe5woNlw0lGova_07gWTvqlpvi5uUk8/edit?usp=haring)

**ME** noted that if we are going to move from a strategic direction to delivery, we need to make sure that we have the right engine for that. There was a discussion earlier about the two project managers joining shortly, which is good news as we need detailed project plans for the Workstreams with deliverables and dates so we can monitor the work of each Workstream. This would give strong assurance towards delivery.

**IT** asked, after hearing the point around transitions in the Richmond Inspection update, what needs to be done to improve Transitions in Kingston. **ID** noted that Kingston Transitions are in a slightly better place than Richmond, due to positive joint working between Children's, Adult and health services, but there is still work to be done. **CP** noted that there have already been meetings, which have been overseen by Jane Bearman in Kingston, there have been developments and it is important that they dovetail into the Transition work that this Board will oversee. It should involve all partners in the partnership working in 16-25 pathways and we need each other to help take this forward. It would be a good priority to focus on and have as a standing item at this Board as it will involve everyone on this Board and it links into the work in the Local Provision for 16-25 year olds, which is also a council priority. It also includes participation, the voice of the young person. **CP** noted that work is already happening, but it's a strategic priority for all partners.

	<p>SH agreed and noted that Transitions is a key piece of work at the Maximising Independence Board and having it as a regular item at this Board would be useful and colleagues could join to give an update on progress.</p> <p>BG asked if the priority was around Transitions or Preparing for Adulthood. ID noted that they are linked, but the recommendation from the Richmond inspection is the planning of transitions between all phases and in particular between secondary and Post 16. It will include aspects from Annual Review to Local Provision.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Minutes from 27 May 2021 meeting and actions not otherwise covered</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed. There was one typo in section 2 – “AW noted that the terminology has been updated in all documentation relating to the SEND Futures Plan, <u>and now reads ASD not ASC</u>, and AfC will continue to use the correct terminology in all documentation moving forward”. This should be – <u>and now reads ASC not ASD</u>.</p>	
7.	<p><b><i>Any other business</i></b></p> <p>It was agreed, if possible, the September Board will be a hybrid meeting.</p>	
8.	<p><b><i>Conclusion</i></b></p> <p>IT thanked the Board for the progress made and congratulated the team for the work involved in the Richmond inspection. It has been a tough year for our health colleagues who have also worked on the issues in our Written Statement of Action, plus the work involved in the inspection. There is always more to do and we will never be perfect, but working together we are heading in the right direction and our CYP are benefiting, this is why we come together and have this discussions, it’s all about improving outcomes for CYP and their families and we should be proud of what we have achieved. IT wished the Board a happy and restful summer.</p>	

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

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

*30 September 2021 at 10-12pm*

*25 November 2021 at 10-12pm*

*26 January 2022 at 10-12pm*