

West Sussex County Council and Partner Organisations

Parent Carers Planning Group

Notes of the meeting held on 21st October 2009
At 10.30am at Brinsbury College

Present:

Jon Philpot	Principal Manager Special Needs & Disability (Chair)
Hilary Stirling	Interim Parent Partnership Officer
Gemma North	Admin Assistant, Parent Partnership Service (Minutes)
Lynda Bell	Acting Service Manager, Child Disability Teams & Sitting Service
Liz Squire	Parent
Lindsey Butterfield	Parent/West Sussex Parents Forum
Kelly Willard	Parent/West Sussex Parents Forum
Nigel Scott-Dickerson	Manager, Springboard
Jenni Herrett	Kangaroos
Debbie Buckwell	Service Manager, Aiming High for Disabled Children
Michelle Burdiss	Parent/Mid Sussex Autistic Support Group
Carys Wreyford	Lead Early Years Advisory Teacher
Liz Hall	
Caroline Williams	Parent/Sussex ADHD Support Group
Steve Large	Senior Carers Support Worker
Sue Berry	Connexions, Crawley & Mid Sussex

Apologies:

Kim Paul	Parent/West Sussex Parents Forum
Councillor Robert Dunn	Deputy Cabinet Member
Janice Ellis	West Sussex Dyslexia Support Group
Bernadette Daly	MENCAP and Wellspring
Jane Barker	Parent
Catherine Bigg	Head of Inclusion Support, Adults and Children Commissioning, Policy & Development Manager, Adult Services, WSCC
Liz Robbins	
Sue Aldred	Manager, Camelia Botnar Children's Centre
Val Evans	PACSO Office Manager

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Jon Philpot explained that he would be chairing the meeting in place of Robert Dunn and welcomed everyone present. The group then introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of 22nd July 2009 and Matters Arising

AHDC NICE Guidelines

Debbie Buckwell reported that Fiona Mackison has now left and that Deb Wallace has now been confirmed in post.

Action: Jon Philpot to follow up Health representation at meetings

I-Count Card

Aaron Gain still looking at it. There has been no definite decision yet.

Sign Language

Kelly Willard mentioned a parent with a child who signs and attends the Elizabeth Foundation in Hampshire. Says that Sensory Support are not willing to help the parent learn to sign so she can communicate with her child. The parent can't afford the course, which is £250. Hilary Stirling said the child needs to be made aware to the Pre-School Panel.

Action: Jon Philpot to follow up. Kelly Willard to forward Jon email.

Disability Review

Jon Philpot circulated a handout regarding the disability review and other projects relevant to children with special needs and disability. Jon explained that it was delayed while the Fundamental Service Review projects took place and once they were completed the disability review would go ahead. Jon estimated that the planning would be done by March 2010 so the implementation could take place, then the Disability Review would come after. There are three Fundamental Service Review Projects that are starting now or are already underway, which are The Children's Delivery Programme, Children's Local Integrated Working Programme and the Rapid Improvement in SEN & OSL.

Stuart Gallimore is leading the Children's Delivery Programme. Ofsted have deemed WSCC services to be inadequate for safeguarding. As a result, the Children's Delivery Programme has identified key weakness areas and produced a 'recovery' programme to improve the services. They have gone through a consultation phase with parents and young people to help identify the key needs.

Sara Weech is leading the Children's Local Integrated Working Programme. They are developing and utilising skills already in place in the ISDAs to improve services within Schools and to support the CAF agenda.

David Sword is leading on the Rapid Improvement in SEN & OSL. The aim is to join up the SEN processes and assessments with other processes so that Parents can play a more leading role in decisions about their children's education and the use of resources. They plan to build capacity of maintained schools and colleges so they can meet a wider range of

additional needs and develop a better level of support within schools. In doing this they hope to improve provision enough to significantly reduce the pressure of placing children in independent and non-maintained schools thereby reducing the cost implications linked with this.

3. Feedback from Parents Forum

Kelly Willard brought up Transport issues. She wanted final recommendations from Ian Gwenlan/Heather McIntosh so that they can pass on to parents the improvements being actioned. Kelly felt disheartened that they had only received Transport's thoughts on the recommendations the Parents Forum had put forward and wanted some solid actions she could feedback to parents. It was mentioned that the Transport budget might be cut, but Kelly said some of their recommendations weren't even about money.

Kelly mentioned that Tim Loughton (MP) wants to meet in March/April 2010 for follow up but is worried that nothing will have been achieved in time to feedback to him.

Kelly is attending a meeting with Transport on Friday and Jon Philpot suggested using the recommendations with their thoughts to achieve some outcomes.

Action: Jon Philpot to chase Ian Gwenlan/Heather McIntosh

Kelly mentioned that Dan Cheesman had recently been appointed the Parent Participation lead in West Sussex.

Parents Forum need to devise boundaries so parents and professionals know exactly what they do now and in the future. They are currently involved with Aiming High and they wanted to produce a more professional newsletter. Parents Forum indicated the need to draw up guidelines so parents and professionals know what behaviour is expected of them.

Kelly mentioned developing 'Question and Answer' sessions where they can bring questions from parents to WSCC and Health to get some answers. Kelly provided an initial date of December and suggested that both management and base-level workers should be involved.

Action: Kelly Willard to arrange with Jon Philpot/Debbie Buckwell

4. Aiming High for Disabled Children update

Debbie Buckwell gave a brief update of AHDC. The next national phase of AHDC is the parental satisfaction survey, which is coming into West Sussex now. It aims to get parents views on social care, education and health services. So far nationally it has got 59/100 across those three areas with York at the top so far with 70-73. Social care has so far proved to be the lowest of the three areas.

In April 2011 it will be a statutory duty to deliver short breaks. There will be formal consultation about what this will mean in practice.

Debbie reported that West Sussex is under pressure to complete the LAMP (Local Area Implementation Plan) which monitors the numbers of additional short breaks which are being provided.

PCT have been asked to prepare an autumn statement on how Health AHDC funding is being used. Debbie reported that Aaron Gain has drafted this and it will be made a public document on 20th November.

There have recently been interviews for an OT but they couldn't appoint so have had to go back to advert.

The first round of Commissioning Additional Short Breaks has just been completed. They received a good number of applications (53) of which they are going to give out 13 contracts. These are in the process now and should be completed within 10 days maximum. The second phase will be more focussed and it is hoped to streamline the process. Gaps in universal services will be a priority.

The Participation group is looking at a parent's charter mark provisionally called the 'PAT Mark' (Parent Action Team). This scheme gets parents to do assessments of facilities and services and instead of the service getting a 'pass' or 'fail', they get recommendations for improvements. Parents and young people pick up on things that assessors like Ofsted don't pick up on. For example, in Hampshire, two young people visited a holiday centre and picked up on the fact that the children get cold at night and that they don't think there is enough food selection, which an Ofsted type inspection would not pick up on.

Debbie mentioned two AHDC Fun Days coming up on 1st November in Burgess Hill and 5th December in Crawley. They have had 60 bookings out of 80 for 1st November.

Debbie mentioned two pilots on disability awareness training coming up. These are to be held on 3rd and 5th November and are both fully booked up and have waiting lists for both. Debbie mentioned that there has been an overwhelming interest for these days.

5. Parenting Strategy

Liz Robbins gave her apologies for the meeting so was unable to give a Carer's Strategy update. Lynda Bell gave a brief report.

Lynda reported that in the Carer's Strategy they are in consultations at the moment. The key areas that are being looked at are; Information, Emotional Support, Employment, NHS Support, Breaks for Carers and Personalised Carers. Lynda also reported that they are trying to raise awareness of carer's issues. They have secured funding to train and cascade down to increase awareness.

6. Where do I go from here? Update

Hilary Stirling talked about the 3rd edition of the 'Where do I go from here?' It has finally been printed and Durban House in Bognor Regis has

been agreed for storage with the Contact Centre as the helpline number for it. Hilary agreed that the Parent Partnership Service would include copies in their major mail shots to schools but would not undertake the initial distribution to other countywide organisations because the Parent Partnership does not have the facility to do so.

Action: Hilary Stirling to draft a covering letter for Jon Philpot to email round.

Action: Hilary Stirling to contact PCT and Sussex Partnership Trust for advice on distribution.

7. Staffing Changes

Jon Philpot discussed that Rick Turney will be taking up the post of Principal Adviser (SEN) in January 2010.

Jon also announced they have confirmed a new Parent Partnership Officer and this will be announced soon.

Hilary Stirling mentioned the two new Information Officers in the Parent Partnership Service. Suzy Lury, who has a background of a school TA at Bishop Luffa C of E secondary school as well as admin support to the SENCo for pupils with Statements. Elaine Worrell has a background as being an Independent Parental Supporter (IPS) for Hampshire Parent Partnership Service.

8. Any other business

Hilary Stirling brought the PCPGs attention to the Special Educational Needs Guidance Booklet. It is a West Sussex specific document with regards to when a request for statutory assessment would be appropriate but relates to the DCSF booklet.

Hilary announced that Claire Prince of the SEN team is currently working on an Early Years Guidance booklet as well, but it is in the early stages at present.

Kelly Willard mentioned that she had an email about an incontinence meeting with parents and professionals. She said parents couldn't attend the meeting as it was held at the time of day when they would be picking children up from school. Debbie Buckwell informed Kelly that the meeting had to go ahead because of the deadline, but would keep Kelly informed on the process and future meetings.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Jon Philpot circulated the provisional dates for the 2010 meetings, which were agreed to be suitable. They are Wednesday 20th January, Wednesday 21st April, Wednesday 21st July and Wednesday 20th October.

All meetings will be held in the Conservatory Room, Brinsbury College from 10.30am to 1.00pm (lunch from 12.30pm)

10. Items for Next Meeting

- Update on Parenting Strategy (Juliet Starbuck)
- Disability review update (Philippa Russell)

The meeting closed at 12.30pm