

Children and Young People's Services and the National Health Service

PARENT CARERS PLANNING GROUP

**Notes of a meeting held on Wednesday 24th January 2007
at 10.30 am - at Pulborough Village Hall**

Present:

Cathy Caine	Asst Group Manager, Child Disability
Debbie Buckwell	Service Manager, Child Disability
Sue Aldred	Manager, Camelia Botnar
John Parsons	Service Development Manager – Western Sussex Primary Care Trust
Jon Philpot	Group Manager, Specialist Services (Chair)
Joan Martin	Parent
Jenni Herrett	Kangaroos
Nigel Scott-Dickeson	Springboard Project
Anna Geall	Carers Support Service, Crawley and Mid-Sussex
Lesley Worrell	Inclusion Co-ordinator, Early Childhood Services
Peter Moore	County Councillor for WSCC
Sue Berry	Connexions
Jo Tyler	Parent Partnership Officer, Education
Lisa Perks	Chief Executive, Sussex Autistic Society
Geoff State	VSLDO, Adult Services
Ruth Stewart	PACSO

Attending:

Jane Lewison-White	Panel Administrator
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Apologies:

Robert Dunn (Chair)	Deputy Cabinet Member, Children & Young People's Services
Kelly Colbourne	Parent
Kim Paul	Parent
Wendy Jones	Assistant Education Officer (SEN)
Barbara Dolan	Parent, Parents Action for Respite Care

1. Welcome and Apologies

Jon Philpot extended a welcome to the group and explained that he would chair today in the absence of Robert Dunn and read out the apologies.

2. Minutes and matters arising from meeting held on 18th October 2007

The group should please note that "Sir" Colin Wilsdon is the wrong title and should be corrected to "Dr" throughout the minutes.

Update on Continence Issues

Cathy Caine reported that no progress had been made regarding commitment from Health and that a meeting is planned for next week with Lesley Strong to talk about how to carry forward this continence issue.

Peter Moor informed the group that Robert Back had read all the papers presented at the last meeting by Anna Cowie and will do everything possible to help.

Transition Task Force

Cathy Caine commented that they are still working hard gathering information and meet fortnightly with good representation from Health. At the last meeting Barry Ruffell did a presentation on Direct Payments.

On 16th February a meeting is planned where they will draw together their conclusions and recommendations.

On page 4 it should be noted that on the tenth line down "SBFT" should be replaced with "Select Committee" and on the fourteenth line down "Out of County" should be replaced with "Respite placements".

3. New Structure for CDT and SEN

Jon Philpot referred the group to the structure chart handouts. He commented that Children and Young Peoples Services is moving towards a more joined up service. The Child Disability Service will join with the SEN, Parent Partnership and Sensory Support Team to form the Special Needs and Disability Service, a countywide service with specialist staff.

From April 2007 there will be three test beds of Integrated Services Development Areas in Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Mid Sussex. Part of existing services in Social Care Locality offices will become part of the ISDAs.

Although the charts are a draft, our part of the service is firmed up and reflects the Social Care and Education Structure. In time we hope that

Health will be fully integrated with the new teams. There will be designated heads of Health Services by the spring.

Jon Philpot also pointed out that there will be a third Child Disability Manager and South East and South West will be split to accommodate the growing need and demand.

Questions and comments then followed from the group:

- Sue Berry asked if Joint Access Teams would continue under the new structure?

Jon Philpot explained that JATs would not continue in their existing format. A regular JAT meeting may not be necessary, as the professionals will be working together on a day to day basis in the ISDAs.

- Joan Martin commented that the new structure's prime reason for being is to facilitate parents and carers needs. It needs to work and needs to be informative as a whole.

- Sue Aldred asked where health fits into the new structure.

Jon Philpot replied that health will be part of the Integrated delivery areas i.e. health visitors, school nurses etc.

Jon Philpot stated that at the next meeting the new structure will be in place and he will keep the group updated.

4. Terms of Reference

The group were asked for comments regarding the proposed updated TOR. Cathy Caine explained that the various current forums had been taken into account. The group discussed the functions of the various forums and felt that PCPG is the bigger picture and is organisation based; whereas smaller groups such as SPACE offer more personal support and advice on a practical basis.

Cathy Caine and Jo Tyler explained the aim of the updated joined up SEN and PCPG was to act as a forum for parent carers and their representatives to present their views on the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities and their families in West Sussex and to shape the development of services to meet those needs.

The group agreed a combined meeting was a good idea. It was also agreed that a representative from PCT at a senior level should attend and report back; preferably one of the new heads of service with operational experience.

The group also agreed that more parent carers needed to attend to have a larger voice.

A few small alterations were discussed and agreed.

Cathy informed the group that Jo Tyler will be taking over from her as coordinator as she is leaving the employment of WSCC at the end of March.

Questions and comments then followed from the group:

- Geoff State commented that the expectation is that there will be no VSLDO link within CYPS in the future.

Cathy Caine stated that she would flag this up and investigate.

- Nigel Scott-Dickeson commented that if a parent representative from each of the smaller forums could be encouraged to attend this meeting they could feed back the information to a wider group of parent carers across the County.

Jon Philpot commented that it was a good idea and we should look at ways to achieve this.

The group acknowledge that a course for parents to acquire skills to deal with bigger meetings may be necessary, as parents can feel overwhelmed and ill equipped when dealing with officials.

- The question of health input on issues was raised.

Cathy Caine agreed to speak with Lesley Strong for a health contribution.

It was also agreed that a representative from Special Educational Needs should attend this meeting.

5. Short Breaks Task Force 2nd phase – Overnight Provision

Cathy Caine explained that the Task Force had considered a range of information: management information, looking at what we provide i.e. foster care, in house residential and agency support, what is jointly funded with health and how we cost it. Lower level services were also considered.

The Task Force tried to work out future demand for the service, which was very difficult.

Conclusions:

- Only providing to top end of need at the moment.
- Services are at full capacity (staffing capacity issues).
- Recognition for parents/carers.
- Budgets out dated.
- Recruitment of foster carers.
- Lack of a transparent decision making process

- Considering increasing staffing to reduce costly agency working and provide continuity of care.
- Any cash saving to be reinvested.
- Re-use of existing land.

The third phase of the SBTF is unlikely to be completed before the next meeting of PCPG.

Cathy also informed the group that parents would have the opportunity to attend DCPD as a pilot beginning in March.

Nigel Scott-Dickeson informed the group that Icount Scheme runs at Sutton. He explained that it is an identity card scheme where family and children of disabled children are invited to provide their information to a database to inform organisations in relation to services they need. The PCT maintains the database by collecting data on line, or by a link to their GP. The group agreed in principle that the Icount Scheme was a good idea but that agreement for finance is the main hurdle for the foreseeable future.

6. Items for next agenda

The group discussed various options for the next agenda and agreed the following:

- Transition
- Children's Centres
- Strategies (to include Special Needs Strategy and Carers Strategy)

7. Any Other Business

Geoff State shared with the group a very useful web site: www.disabledgo.info which provides a database full of very detailed information to disabled people. So far two towns, Crawley and Chichester have been mapped. The idea is that different councils are able to buy into it.

Jon Philpot informed the group that Gordon Brown had launched a "Hearings of Evidence" paper two weeks ago and one of the areas to be looked at is Child Disability. The budget details would give a clearer idea of what provisions are made (please see below).

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_csr07/reviews/cyp_review/cypreview_index.cfm

with the specific document being:

[PDF file of Policy review of children and young people: A discussion paper](#)

9. Date of Next Meeting:

**9th May 2007
10.30-12.30 followed by lunch
Pulborough Village Hall**