

Minutes of Northumberland Parent Carer Professional Forum (PCPF)

Venue: Stannington Village Hall

Date: Monday 11th December 2017 10.30-12.30

PRESENT:	Ann Armstrong, Lynn Bryden, Helen Cowens, Julie Anne Curtis, Judith Dodds, Sue Fletcher, Vicki Graham, Elizabeth Johnston (Chair), Jan Lowery(Guest), Amanda Richardson, Doris Ross, Jacquie Simpson, Nicola Strachan, Fiona Tarn
APOLOGIES:	Sam Barron, Alison Bravey, Lynn Bryden, Lesley Cole, Hayley Fawcett, Sue Fletcher, Jean Hedley, Kath Lennon, Dorothy Lewis, Russell Pickering, Heather Pringle, Eileen Robinson, Gill Turner

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
1.	Welcome and introductions	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting: no amendments	
3.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on consultations. In it together parent reps attended all events. The attendance got progressively better as the events went on. Attendees were a mix of parents, school governors/staff and local councillors. The closing date was the 8th so now waiting for feedback. <p>Sam Barron confirmed the comments are to go on the Local Offer so that the process is transparent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will replace NE12 going forward? Judith Dodds to query with Sam Barron. Parent Query : How many people were put on the NE12 portal last year? Accessible toilets was given the go ahead to progress the project, this will start in January. 	JD
4.	<p>MAG (Multi Agency Autism Group) Feedback</p> <p>Last meeting was cancelled due to lack of attendees. Sam Barron to confirm how the group will proceed in the future.</p> <p>Cygnets training is being offered. 2 sessions starting in the next 6 months. In the West in January, then later in the North.</p>	
5.	<p>BUZZ Learning - Jan Lowery</p> <p>Buzz takes learners 16 to 19 years old (can be older than 19 with an EHCP). The provision is based in Ashington. They currently have 24 learners and 7 staff - this can be increased if needed. They try to be as much like a college as possible: 9am start with a 30 minute chill out time to get everyone settled in. The first session starts at 9.30am till 12.30pm, then lunch break with the second session from 1pm to 3.30pm. A 6 week initial assessment is completed to see what the individual needs of the learner are. Maths and English are offered at different levels, from functional skills to GCSE. There is also a focus on independent living skills.</p> <p>Supported internships normally in year 2 in a place of work, allowing young people to develop skills that are valued by employers (to demonstrate what they can offer a workplace) and to develop their own confidence. Support is given for workplace preparation; e.g. earlier this month mock interviews were held with learners and work placements will be starting in January for some learners.</p> <p>Q: What about learners who live rural areas?</p> <p>BUZZ would try to find work placements nearer to home or learners would get a taxi to BUZZ, then go to the workplace from BUZZ. They don't currently have many learners in rural areas. Independent travel skills are built into the learning program to help young people get the skills they need (where this is realistic for them).</p> <p>Work placements are currently in catering and retail. Not as many placements as BUZZ would like, but they try hard to get the right person in the right company. They are always looking to find more businesses to use for placements and take young people to companies to try to help obtain placements. For catering placements they</p>	

try to use small cafes who are good for work experience.

Q Do you do mechanics?

No BUZZ don't do the qualification, but could support the work placement.

Q Can you take young people without an EHCP?

BUZZ have been able to take a couple of young people this year, but need to look at the evidence from schools. An EHCP would be needed for anyone 19+ and there is no guarantee of funding. All funding is currently through education.

EJ noted that supported internships are being promoted to families at the moment, but there doesn't seem to be much of a buy in from companies. It was said at the national conference there should be opportunities in Local Authorities and NHS, but there doesn't seem to be much available in this area.

It is difficult but Buzz do have contacts with a couple of local companies but they are always trying to find more.

The Ability Program: This is aimed at those not ready for a supported internship. It encourages the young people to look at the world around them; for example topics in the news. BUZZ held their own election in June last year.

Healthy Eating: Smile through Sport are starting an 8 week program in February.

BUZZ also would do group work placements and community placements; for example last year a group worked on transforming the urban garden at the YMCA in Ashington.

The qualifications that young people can get at BUZZ are GCSEs and they also have other awards and certificates; e.g. NOCN award in catering. There is a bursary of £6 or £8 per day which is paid to students weekly. There is free lunch voucher for those who would qualify for free school meals.

The normal number of learners at BUZZ is 25 maximum, but they can apply to take more than this if they need to. Currently have 1 place left for January. The ratio is about 50/50 male/ female at the moment. BUZZ provides a personal service as it is a small college. They are trying to balance numbers so they don't lose that feel. They have applied to be an independent school which would allow 30 places and allow them to take Year 9,10 and 11 age young people. Sometimes BUZZ is used for a year to prepare young people who then go on to a bigger college.

Q Do you have an open day?

On Wednesdays BUZZ have no students on site so it is a good day for parents and learners to look around and ask questions. Collingwood School have brought leavers along so they can see what is on offer.

Q There has been a specialist college mentioned in the recent consultation, would this be competition?

There is already competition from the other colleges. BUZZ offer something slightly different. It has been easier to fill the places this year as BUZZ is becoming more well known.

Q Who is the SENCO? Would she be interested in attending the SENCO meetings?

Her name is Margaret and she would be happy to attend SENCO meetings.

Q Would a mental health problem stop someone being accepted?

No, BUZZ look at every individual and see if they can meet their needs.

	<p>Q If a young person had more complex needs would you be able to meet their needs? BUZZ have a variety of needs being met currently. They would look at the individual young person and their needs. Sometimes extra staff are employed to provide the correct level of support, if necessary. The needs of each young person would be looked at to see if their needs can be met at BUZZ.</p>	
6.	<p>Locality Round Up The south East meetings are being moved to the County Blind Association premises to be more central. The meetings have guest speakers and share parent views.</p> <p>Q Can a parent be sent along with/by a social worker? Yes if this would encourage parents to come along. The meetings are about information sharing for parents of young people 0 - 25. The child/young person might not have a diagnosis or the meetings can help signpost people to services for parents of a children with new diagnoses.</p>	
7.	<p>SEND Update New members of staff appointed: there will be a SEND Advisor in the School improvement Partnership. Russell Pickering is now Senior SEND Manager. His previous post will be backfilled. Nicola Taylor is SEND Project Manager. Cath McAvoy is now the Director of Children's Services and Andy Johnson is Project Director.</p> <p>Q Will Service Level Agreements (SLAs) continue? This can restrict what can be done by SEND Support Services and may not be equal across the county. It is important that we ensure schools follow the graduated approach. SLA can impact on this. Schools have a duty to meet children's special educational needs, but if they have not bought into the SLA then this may have an impact.</p> <p>Q Parents don't know what is the schools responsibility and what is the local authority responsibility? The best reference would be the SEND Code of Practice. Schools must listen to parents. The SEND support teams do have concerns about the drop in numbers of children/ young people they are supporting and about the support children with SEND are accessing. The SEND Support teams have not lost staff due to the SLAs being introduced. This was due to general financial constraints. There used to be a proactive approach to meeting special educational needs, but now it is difficult to help schools plan for this as SEND Support services are not brought in to do that. For example; a school had referred a child to the Hub, but as they had not bought in to the SLA, they could not access support from the Behaviour Support Service.</p> <p>Q Can you challenge the change in figures of who you did support prior to the SLA and who you support now? It is up to schools whether they buy into the SLAs. Concerns have been raised at a strategic level.</p>	
8.	<p>In It Together -The annual conference will be held on the 15th March, at Alnwick Gardens. The theme has yet to be decided. It will be a 10.30 start with 1.30 finish with lunch to follow.</p>	
9.	<p>Social Care update - Doris Ross The Disabled Children Team are currently four social workers down, but they are</p>	

	<p>appointing two new social workers, one to start in January. The areas they will cover have yet to be confirmed. There were not many applicants for the posts. The Transition Pilot in West Northumberland is on hold at the moment, because there is currently only one part time social worker covering this area. There are two new social worker assistants now on the team.</p> <p>Questions raised by parent with regard to social care included: Q Are people accessing personal budgets? Are they being used for self directed support? Q Would like to have access to some feedback from parents. Q Is it possible to invite the commissioner for short breaks? The North and West of Northumberland do not have anything offered at the moment. Q What is the budget for short breaks/ direct payments? Q What is the criteria for short breaks? Q Are you expected to contribute yourself towards short breaks? With social activities, social care will pay for the young person and the carer to get in, but the cost of getting there must be covered by the benefits. It was noted there is only so much a benefit can cover.</p>	
10.	<p>Healthwatch Now have a full team of three engagement worker. This is a new team employed over the last year .Healthwatch is an independent champion for the users of health and social care in Northumberland.</p> <p>Q How does your funding work? It is done in three year blocks, which has been extended, but is up for tender in the near future. Healthwatch covers all of the county; listening, understanding and advocating for people. They can raise issues to do with health or social care, and can help people of any age. They can help people get the information they need about services in their area. They operate through hold events in public places, such as shopping centres, to try to raise the profile of the organisation. Also attend specific events such as openings of hospitals, NHS roadshows. They have a website and Facebook page which are listed in their leaflets. They use these to advertise and post about Healthwatch and other events. Clare Jackson is the contact for updating information and resources.</p>	
10.	<p>Dates of future meetings: Thursday February 22nd 2018 Thursday May 3rd 2018 Thursday July 5th 2018 Thursday October 4th 2018 Thursday December 6th 2018</p> <p>Venue: Stannington Village Hall - all meetings 10.30 – 12.30</p> <p>Apologies for next meeting:</p>	

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR MINUTES

Debbie Bakkali	Team Manager, Children's Services, Family Support Team
Sam Barron	Head of SEND Strategy, Designated Clinical Officer CCG
Paula Batsford	Designated Medical Officer
Alison Bravey	Parent Partnership Officer, SEND Information, Advice and Support Service

Kate Brundle	Head of Commissioning (Mental Health)
Lynne Bryden	Senior Manager, Commissioning
Karen Carnaffin	Team Leader, Families Information Service
Lesley Cole	Autism Northumberland
Mary Connor	Senior Manager, Early Intervention and Prevention
Helen Cowens	Parent Representative, North Northumberland
Julie Anne Curtis	Team Manager, Neurodevelopmental pathway, Northumberland CYPS
Mark Cusack	Passenger Transport Operations Manager
Wayne Daly	Deputy Leader of Northumberland County Council and Board Member for Children's Services
Jean Hedley	Blyth Valley Children's Centre Locality Manager
Sarah Hanlon	Parent Representative, West Northumberland
Andrew Johnson	Director of Education and Skills
Mary Johnson	Co-ordinator of Dasl'e
Elizabeth Johnston	Parent Representative, North Northumberland; Chair of In It Together
Sarah Lee	Participation Adviser, Contact a Family
Patrick Love	Acting Team Manager, Children's Services, Family Support Team
Daljit Lally	Deputy Chief Executive, Northumberland County Council
Dorothy Lewis	Children's Centre Coordinator - Seaton Valley Children's Centre, T
Julia Lyford	Splinter Group representative
Janet Millington	Clinical Lead, Speech and Language Therapy, MAG Autism
Rachel Mitcheson	Head of Commissioning (Children)
Marian Moon	Line Manager, Disabled Children Team, Northumberland Healthcare, NHS
Michele O'Brien	Carer's Lead, Involvement & Service Development, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Katie Paul	Team Manager, Complex Mental Health Pathway, Northumberland CYPS
Russell Pickering	SEND Manager
Heather Pringle	Healthwatch
Amanda Richardson	Parent Representative, Central/South East Northumberland
Eileen Robinson	Parent Representative, West Northumberland
Doris Ross	Team Manager, Disabled Children Team
Ben Sanderson	Youth Participation Worker, Northumberland Youth Service
Jacquie Simpson	Parent Representative, North Northumberland
Fiona Tarn	SEND Support Service Manager for ASD, Behaviour
Gill Turner	Consultant Paediatrician, West Northumberland
Sue Welsh	Head of Therapies, Northumbria Healthcare, NHS