

Minutes of Northumberland Parent Carer Professional Forum (PCPF)

Venue: Stannington Village Hall

Date: Monday 11 February 2019 10.30 - 12.30

PRESENT:	Sam Barron, Alison Bravey (Minutes), Helen Cowens, Hayley Fawcett, Elizabeth Johnston (Chair), Naomi Jones, Lynne McKillup, Amanda Richardson, Eileen Robinson, Doris Ross, Jacque Simpson,
APOLOGIES:	Suzanne Barton, Sarah Hanlon, Simon Murray, Isabel Russell, Nicola Strachan, Nicola Taylor, Gill Turner, Lesley Tweddell

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
1.	Welcome and introductions	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting: amended and agreed	
3.	Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Trailblazer project will be covered next meeting. 	SB
4.	Eligibility Criteria DCT (Disabled Children Team) - Doris Ross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information available on Northumberland County Council website, search for 'Disabled Children statutory social work team'. Looking at how to make information about the criteria more accessible. Team is located across Northumberland with most staff based at Eddie Ferguson House in Blyth. To be eligible for support through the team a child would have a moderate to severe learning and/or physical disability and there would be a need arising from this disability within the family. May link with health - need to consider whether there is an unmet health need. The DCT also cover Child Protection, including for non-disabled children. A new social worker with experience of safeguarding disabled children has been seconded for 6 months to work with locality teams. Different types and levels of support may be offered by the team, including direct payments, daycare, enabling and overnight short break care. A pilot project trialled in West Northumberland saw a small number of young people (6) remaining with the DCT Post-18. This was a huge learning curve for the team re areas such adult legislation and housing. Care Plans are reviewed 3 monthly, then 6 monthly and updated annually. Looking to improve the support offered to CYP (children and young people) with sensory loss (hearing and visual). Liaising with Isabel Russell from Sensory Support. Info Link register and Max Cards administered by Kirstine Gagie - available for any child with a disability not just those where DCT are involved. Main Points discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An issue can be where a child didn't meet the criteria for input from the DCT, or where the family didn't want support, when they reach 18 and need a service. For some children their medical needs may mean that they can't access a care placement without support. Need to look at the impact of their health condition on their care needs. Need to make sure that the information on the Local Offer about social care and continuing health care is comprehensive, up to date and very clear about eligibility criteria. This is being looked at by Jane Falconer. 	

5. WSOA (Written Statement of Action) update - Sam Barron

- The draft document was shared. Deadline for submission is 13 March and the document needs to go through scrutiny and other processes prior to this. The Local Authority has 70 days from the publication of the outcome letter from the Local Area inspection to produce an Action Plan. Supported by Cath Hitchin from the DfE and Chris Brown from NHS England. The inspection revisit will focus on what changes have been made and the positive impact for CYP with SEND.
- The WSOA document sets out how the Local Authority and CCG will address weaknesses in arrangements for CYP with SEND and their families, including joint planning, commissioning and provision of services.
- A co-produced Local Area SEND strategy has been drafted. There will be a review of some services including those for speech, language and communication. A Local Area outcomes framework has been developed and the arrangements for operational decision making are being reviewed.
- Focus on person centred approach for EHC needs assessment and EHC Plan processes. Clearer pathways for requesting Personal Budgets within EHCPs. Emphasis on the involvement of Health and Care professionals when a CYP with an EHCP is on their caseload.
- Looking at increased workforce capacity to lead on improvements required within the Local Offer. Information needs to be accessible, accurate and kept up to date. *It was felt it would be helpful to have a 'recently added documents' section and a search function. It may be necessary to have the same information in different sections.*
- Inconsistencies in how the Graduated Approach is delivered in different settings is being addressed through the work of Nicola Taylor and Angela Davies with school SENCOs. Julie Beattie is delivering training to Early Years SENCOs. Training to be delivered to school governors for SEND and SENCOs working as a pair. NASEN (National Association of Special Educational Needs) have developed resources for whole school SEND reviews. A Facebook page for Northumberland SENCOs has been requested by Head Teachers.
- David Street, Primary Commissioner, Dave Cookson, Secondary Commissioner or Angela Davies, SEND School Improvement Leader to be invited to the next Forum meeting to talk about the changes to the OFSTED inspection process.
- Review of SEND Support Services - what works effectively. Use of support by schools needs to be planned and used across the year.
- Partnership support of Health and Social Care. 'Tell it Once' approach - need to ensure that electronic systems are secure and compatible for sharing information.
- Need to Improve parental confidence in graduated response and ability of mainstream schools to meet the needs of CYP with SEND. Improved parental understanding of processes; what does their CYP find difficult, what is the school doing about it and what are the next steps.
- Information for SENCOs, including SEND processes and paperwork, is on the Local Offer. This is to encourage the use of the website and signposting to it.
- Addressing poor outcomes for CYP with SEND and weaknesses in successfully preparing them for their adult lives. The range and quality of Post-16 and Post-19 provision is being reviewed. Revised guidance for schools on the Annual Review process will be co-produced to support transition. Co-production of a clear pathway for CYP with SEND that enables Education, Health and Social Care teams to support them moving into adulthood. Transition team to support YP with complex needs. Co-produced advice for CYP and their families to support them

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	<p>with decision making with moving into adulthood. <i>It was noted that the use of the word 'co-production' can be confusing for families. They may not be sure what it means. There can be confusion around terminology generally and this may lead to different responses if the same question is asked in different ways, using different language.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with parents to share the findings of the Local Area inspection have identified that some don't understand the relationship between the DfE and Contact and In It Together Parent Carer Forum. They don't understand that In It Together is the official partner with the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group, funded by the government,. <i>It was noted that some parents who are openly critical of In It Together don't come to locality meetings to find out more about the work of the Forum. Information is also shared and questions answered by email or on Facebook. The qualifications of the In It Together steering group has also been questioned by some parents. It is not about having a paper qualification, it is about personal experience and the desire to make a positive difference for CYP with SEND and their families. It was noted that the parents of young children may not engage with In It Together because they are so new to the world of SEND and may not have the time/energy at that point - families need to be in the 'right place' to become involved.</i> • Preparation for Adulthood training (2 days) facilitated by Barry Jones from NDTi (National Development Team for Inclusion), the North regional representative for PfA (Preparing for Adulthood) to review the work of professionals with CYP Year 7 and older. As part of this, 82 anonymised EHC Plans were reviewed at the workshops, which were very well attended by staff from a range of services. The feedback from the workshops will be collated and put into graph form. <i>The challenge of writing SMART meaningful outcomes was noted. Kidscreen 52 was mentioned as a tool for getting baseline information from CYP.</i> 	
6.	<p>Safeguarding disabled CYP - Naomi Jones (Designated Doctor for Safeguarding in Northumberland, Consultant Paediatrician)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naomi outlined her different roles, which includes membership of the Northumberland LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board). The LSCB includes membership from statutory and non-statutory services and voluntary organisations. Governance arrangement include an annual report to the board from the different subgroups. • NSPCC data indicates that disabled CYP are at increased risk of maltreatment of various forms. The LSCB has a separate subgroup which focuses on safeguarding disabled children. It was set up to give due weight to this particularly vulnerable group. The SEND Inspectors specifically mentioned the subgroup as an example of best practice. • The work plan for 2018/2019 includes the journey of the child and their family when they are identified as in need of additional support. Specific areas of focus include the impact of Early Help; how well agencies identify and respond to input required for Child Protection, and what is done to reduce the risk; making sure that the views and feelings of CYP and their parents are captured; and responding to learning from local and national reviews, including serious case reviews. • Particular topics the subgroup has looked at include restraint in schools and at home; transition; and safeguarding CYP who live away from home; e.g. Looked After Children in residential settings. The subgroup also does case file audits for Child Protection and Children in Need. <p><i>It was noted that In It Together representatives used to sit on the subgroup, but</i></p>	

this is no longer the case. This is because the remit of the group has changed from the previous group. It is now more about the 'nuts and bolts' of safeguarding and the way it functions, and may not be as relevant to parents and carers. None of the subgroups for the LSCB have parent carer members.

- *The aim of the group is to ensure that agencies whose responsibility it is to safeguard CYP have the skills to respond appropriately to issues of maltreatment. These CYP are more vulnerable to exploitation in adulthood. Looking to prevent maltreatment and protect the YP as they move into adulthood.*

Need to ensure that YP have the support they need when the responsibility shifts from their parents to themselves, although they can still ask their parents to advocate for them. YP have the right to make their own choices. Need to make sure information about their vulnerability carries forward to protect them into adulthood. Speech and language therapists hold key information about what the YP can understand and what they are able to express. A parent rep noted that the transition process seems more streamline when the DCT is involved.

- *The subgroup are looking for help with reaching the wider group of parents and carers to look at the issues that are coming up and what parents and carers want the safeguarding board to be aware of. This may involve subgroup members attending events and training to raise the profile of their work.*

It was queried whether the Local Offer contains information on safeguarding disabled CYP. It was noted that disabled CYP who are home educated are a particularly vulnerable group. Government review on this group has not yet been published. OFSTED look at data from schools where parents have chosen to home educate.

Some parents still have a fear of asking for support from social care services. The impact of a child's behaviour on their siblings can be an issue as can adolescent to parent violence and aggression. Patterns that begin when a child is very young can become entrenched. Effective early intervention can prevent situations from escalating. Safeguarding means more than just Child Protection. There is a clear pathway for responding to adolescent to parent violence. This arose from a domestic homicide review and sets out the roles of adult and children's social care services - the pathway can be found on the NSCB website. The MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub) which covers children and adults was mentioned. There is also a Vulnerable Adults Team based in County Hall. Families may feel more comfortable sharing safeguarding concerns with their child's school with staff they know and trust, or in particular forums/groups. Their family situation, however difficult, becomes their 'normal' so they may not think to ask for help. With some safeguarding situations, there had been multiple contacts by different services, but the situation was 'downplayed' by the family and services involved. Families might be reluctant to ring the police in case the CYP is removed from the family home.

It was felt that parents would benefit from NAPPI (Non Abusive Psychological and Physical Intervention) and MAPA (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression) training to learn techniques for de-escalating and managing behaviour. The Positive Behaviour Support Team provides training for parents. The provision of intimate care for disabled children and keeping all parties safe was also discussed. The whole family circumstances need to be taken into account to identify who would be the appropriate family members to provide support.

7.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In It Together ‘Right from the Start’ Preparing for Adulthood conferences: 9.45 - 14.00: 19 March - Alnwick Rugby Club, 20 March - Hexham Mart ● Donation to Gateway into the Community: A letter from Julia Ferguson, Chief Executive of Gateway into the Community, was shared thanking In It Together for nominating the charity to receive a donation of £122.95. The money was raised by Northumberland County Council at a cake stall in support of Purple Thursday (to raise awareness of domestic violence). Gateway into the Community supports local people with learning disabilities in West Northumberland to access leisure and learning in their community, as well as providing opportunities for them to make friends through their groups and activities. 	
10.	<p>Dates of future meetings:</p> <p>Tuesday 14th May 2019 Thursday 4th July 2019 Thursday 10th October 2019 Thursday 5th December 2019</p> <p>Venue: Stannington Village Hall - all meetings 10.30 – 12.30</p>	

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR MINUTES

Sam Barron	Head of SEND Strategy, DCO (Designated Clinical Officer) CCG
Suzanne Barton	Children's Commissioner, Northumberland CCG
Alison Bravey	Parent Partnership Officer, SEND Information, Advice and Support Service
Lynne Bryden	Senior Manager, Commissioning
Karen Carnaffin	Team Leader, Families Information Service
Mary Connor	Senior Manager, Early Intervention and Prevention
Helen Cowens	Parent Representative, North Northumberland
Julie Anne Curtis/Laura Burnage	Northumberland CYPS
Mark Cusack	Passenger Transport Operations Manager
Wayne Daly	Deputy Leader of Northumberland County Council and Board Member for Children's Services
Judith Dodds	SEND Support Service Manager, Speech, Language and Communication Service; Literacy Support Service (Dyslexia), EAL
Hayley Fawcett	Speech and Language Therapy
Gill Finch	School Equalities Support
Jean Hedley	Manager, Barnardos
Sarah Hanlon	Parent Representative, West Northumberland
Dean Jackson	Director of Education
Elizabeth Johnston	Parent Representative, North Northumberland; Chair of In It Together
Sarah Lee	Participation Adviser, Contact a Family
Daljit Lally	Chief Executive Officer, Northumberland County Council
Dorothy Lewis	Children's Centre Coordinator - Seaton Valley Children's Centre
Patrick Love	Acting Team Manager, Children's Services, Family Support Team
Julia Lyford	Splinter Group representative
Lynn McKillup	Portage Lead
Scott Millican	CYPS Manager
Rachel Mitcheson	Head of Commissioning (Children)
Simon Murray	Manager, Adult Social Care
Kate O'Brien	Commissioner, CCG
Katie Paul	Team Manager, Complex Mental Health Pathway, Northumberland CYPS
Russell Pickering	Senior SEND Manager
Amanda Richardson	Parent Representative, Central/South East Northumberland
Eileen Robinson	Parent Representative, West Northumberland
Doris Ross	Team Manager, Disabled Children Team
Isabel Russell	Acting Sensory Support Manager
Ben Sanderson	Youth Participation Worker, Northumberland Youth Service
Jacque Simpson	Parent Representative, North Northumberland
Nicola Strachan	Parent Representative, North Northumberland
Fiona Tarn	SEND Support Service Manager for ASD, Behaviour
Nicola Taylor	SEND Project Manager
Caron Torboh	Special School Nursing
Gill Turner	Consultant Paediatrician, West Northumberland
Lesley Tweddell	Healthwatch
Sue Welsh	Head of Therapies, Northumbria Healthcare, NHS
Adele Wright	Line Manager, Disabled Children Team, Northumberland Healthcare, NHS