

Parent Network Meeting – SEND Reforms

Fenland, 16 March 2016 (daytime)

The Oasis Community Centre, Wisbech

Attendees

Parents: 5

Service Providers: Bob Wilson, Rachel O'Neill, Josie Lynn, Fred Bush, Michelle Docking, Shelley Cook, Gavin Walklate.

Pinpoint: Eve Redgrave, Lenja Bell, Kari Payne, Carole Darlow

Overview

The topic for these network meetings was SEND reforms,. **Parents worked in groups with providers from each service to After the group work, each provider fed back the key points which had been captured on flip chart paper and are recorded below. The parents had a chance to talk individually with each other and service providers over lunch.**

Feedback from group work

Parents and service providers worked in groups to answer....

SEN Support/EHCP

Communication/general comments:

- Parents and child's voice must be heard supported and valued.
- Transport should be discussed at annual reviews particularly the year of and year before transfer.
- Transitions need to be structured and planned
- Need health to input
- Secondary schools not getting support right.
- Poor communication does not help
- Need info on what schools should provide and do – Schools talk about funding not need – What is your first port of call for queries? – Need good communication.
- Schools are ignoring child's needs and ignoring reports and advise given
- Professional need to see child (Indepth) to offer advise, can't rely on other people's understanding, it could be incorrect.
- School staff need to recognise parents concerns and talk to them as equals and be honest

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- If needs are not met, things can get worse
- NQTs need support
- Professionals need to show and demonstrate they are 'experts' to build trust
- Schools should recognise that SEN causes behaviour, they are not naughty
- Look at the child's self esteem and levels of anxiety
- Stop blaming resources for not meeting child's needs.
- Experience of A,P,D,R in practise but it is not fully realised though.
- Breakdown in communication with the school but hopefully parent s can pull back through the A,P,D,R process.
- School good at having meetings with parent
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What would help?

- Parents need info and support to make decisions.
- Recognise that not all parents can help sort things and some need support to help their child.
- Recognising SEN and not 'Blaming' the child.
- Better transitions.
- Funding to support the 'do' of A,P,D,R
- Continuation of support from year to year
- Learning passports accessible to all, including teacher to teacher
- A differentiated report for SEND children in mainstream, seeing your child is 90% below average does nothing to improve self esteem.

EHC Plans specifically

- Need clarity over what annual review meetings should be and the procedures
- Need clarity on cross border provision.
- Need health to input
- Consider having annual reviews in the health setting to ensure their input
- Post 16 funding decisions are slow as they go to panel. This could be sped up with an individual deciding.

Local Offer

Schools information report

- Most schools have put them in place but not everyone has seen them
- Few familys or parents were asked to be involved with their creation.
- Lack of transparency on individual pupil funding
- Poor info on access to services or signposting across county borders

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- Some not aware of it at all, school did not signpost to the local offer either, little info on Assess, plan, do, review
- Parents need support to have the voice and knowledge
- Needs info about A.P.D.R
- Needs to offer support to challenge decisions, how and who can help.
- Governors need local offer training, info report needs a governor page/section
- Governors need wider knowledge outside of their school.
- **More info on what schools there are and what they provide**

Local Offer

- 4/5 had used the site
- Sometimes the information was too much to take in, hard to process jargon.
- If a family has cross border issues which local offer do you follow?
- Keep it simple, bullet points. School support, SEN support
- Without an EHCP the path is not as clear.
- How many meetings should you generally expect in school?
- Need access to advocacy and questions to ask in meetings
- Autism local offer
- Better to navigate than Norfolk
- Add a postcode and know where the service is delivered from
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Next Steps

The feedback from the group work will be collected and analysed across the five network meetings and shared with **education, health and social service managers and frontline staff**. **Pinpoint will update parents on how this work is taken forward.**