

Parent Network Meeting – SEND Reforms

Hunts, 6 March 2015

The Medway Centre, Huntingdon

Attendees

Parents: 8

Service Providers: Bob Wilson, Maxine Crouch, Jane Crittenden, Kate Papageorgiou, Jon Soros, Gavin Walklate, Catherine Bancroft, Eloise Riches, Sue Bardell (apologies Siobhan MacBean, Teresa Grady, Gemma Wilkinson, Liz Graham)

Pinpoint: Lenja Bell, Eve Redgrave, Jackie King

Overview

The topic for these network meetings was SEND Reforms. The County Council gave a presentation to parents on what is happening locally. This was followed by a live demonstration of the Local Offer. Parents then had time to speak individually to Core Assets regarding Independent Support, Social Care, SENDIASS (PPS), and SEND Services. A copy of the SEND Reform presentation can be found on the pinpoint website:

Parent issues raised / feedback given

The comments below were made by parents. Comments by professionals are given in italics.

- How soon should schools be informing parents of a transfer meeting? (*Good practise is 2 weeks*)
- Should schools be following the LAs transfer timetable? (*They should but there is no legal requirement to do so*)
- Can you ask a school for an earlier transfer to EHCP if you wish? (*Yes*)
- A positive transfer was shared. The young person was 17 and all were given plenty of notice to attend. The school (Spring Common) were up front and admitted that they were new to the process and if they got anything wrong on the forms they would do them all again to get it right.
- *If parents have concerns about transfer they should speak to their caseworker.*
- Some have experienced transfer to EHCP with no prior knowledge.
- *If parents are unhappy with the named school for transfer they need to appeal as soon as possible.*

pinpoint Cambridgeshire is a Registered Charity, No: 1156920

- *Due to the number of reviews the STAR team cannot attend all but if a school needs their assistance they will be there.*
- Parents don't all know about independent Supporters
- Parents have attended what they believe to be an annual review only to find it is a transfer meeting to EHCP.
- *When schools have merely copied and pasted information from a statement the STAR team are sending them back. Child views and aspirations must be on there and they will challenge schools. This has led to delays.*
- Very pleased to find out about the Independent Supporters. Had a very helpful discussion.
- Bad experience of CAMH was told condition not serious enough to warrant treatment. Depression leading to blackouts. 'Do I have to hurt myself or someone else to get help?' Child quote.
- Child had to wait 18 months for 5 sessions of mental health treatment. This was too long 'I know there are people more important than me' Child quote.
- CAMH lost all child's files. Parents duplicated and resent to be told they had never been received in the first place.
- Short breaks info does not come up in the search on the directory. People would give up, there needs to be a link.
- The directory is not intuitive. It's frustrating to not be able to find things. Key words don't always bring up the service you need.
- The directory is not services its providers. This is causing confusion.
- *Call the contact centre if you can't find what you need.*
- *Items on the directory have to be safe as it is seen as a council recommendation. Not just anyone can go on there.*
- Local offer not accessible to all. No sign of different languages or video clips for those who are not particularly literate.

Parent feedback on meeting

- I found it very useful and informative – glad I came
- Very helpful and informative. Really useful. Thank you.