

Pinpoint Cambridgeshire is a Registered Charity, No: 1156920

**Notes from
Cambridgeshire Partners in Commissioning Group (SEND)
1 December 2015
Carer's Trust, St Ives**

Present:

Lenja Bell, pinpoint (Chair)
Carole Darlow, Pinpoint
Eve Redgrave, Pinpoint, parent representative
Gaby Pakpourtabrizi, parent representative
Jackie King, Pinpoint, parent representative
Meredith Teasdale, Cambridgeshire County Council
Richard Holland, Cambridgeshire County Council
Richenda King, Little Miracles Cambridge, Ely & Newmarket.
Sharif Al-Rousi, Cambridgeshire County Council
Sherie Paris, parent representative
Fay Dutton, parent representative
Bob Wilson, Cambridgeshire County Council

Apologies:

Emma Britton, Jayne Denby, Liz Day, Sally Woods, Caroline Goodall, Bianca Cotterill, Christine-Stocker Gibson, Julie Peake, Tandy Harrison, Janet Dullaghan.

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Lenja welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Group background and Terms of Reference.

Lenja gave the group the background of the meetings and what the aims of these meetings will be to:

- Give feedback following the termly Pinpoint network meeting, to look at what has been raised and ensure matters arising have been addressed.
- Form an open and frank conversation on what's needed to support families in Cambridgeshire.
- Enable the local authority and health services to work alongside Pinpoint and parent representatives.

Lenja asked the group if any other services should be invited to join the group. Sherie asked if START could be invited – Meredith agreed to represent this team as she manages them. Meredith informed the group that Janet Dullaghan has been appointed as Head of Commissioning: Children's Health and Wellbeing. The post is triple funded by CCC, PCC and Cambridge & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Janet will be taking the lead on CCG mental health & the school nursing agenda.

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Lenja read through the terms of reference with the group, each point was discussed and amendments noted. Final draft to be disseminated to all parties before the next meeting. **(Action Point 1)**

3. Updates

Pinpoint Network Meetings

October 2014 - Activities

- Sherie is trustee of Welcome 2 Our World based in Fenland and they have worked with Meadowgate special school to allow pupils of the school to use their facilities such as the light room, soft play and main hall every Tuesday evening. They have done this in collaboration with Sport Works and offer a wide range of activities to the children and young people.
- Richenda has a meeting with Eve on Saturday and will discuss the possibility of using the Castle special school on a similar basis. The group suggested having a discussion with Simon Bainbridge, Head at Highfields special school about the possibility of using that as a base. Little Miracles are currently using Larkfields in Ely. Meredith said she would discuss with special schools **(AP 2)**

June 2015 – Mental Health

- Feedback from one of the support groups has said it would be really helpful if a directory of services/support groups regarding mental health was made available to parents, particularly to advise parents on what to look out for, when to flag up their concerns, etc.
- Pinpoint are facilitating ASD/ADHD peer support groups in Peterborough, Ely & Histon and training for parents running in the new year with input from consultants in CAMHS. The locality team in Wisbech run a regular support group for parents of children with ADHD.
- Gaby raised her concern for children within mainstream schools who get less mental health support than their peers in special schools and the consensus of the group was that this is the case and mainstream schools need to be given the training and support to enable them to meet the mental health needs of their pupils with SLD.
- Meredith informed the group about the “thrive model” which is being launched within Cambridgeshire. Members of the group voiced how important it is that parents are involved in the development of the model and how parents and the wider community need to be part of the training offered, in particular mainstream schools to ensure children and young people are getting consistency in their mental health support. The project will be implemented over the next 18 months.

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- Meredith told the group about ACT, the new Advice and Coordination Team, for mental health services. This is initially being rolled out for professionals.

October 2015 – Communication

- The reports from the October meetings are now on the Pinpoint website.
- Sherie asked if parents could have feedback on what happens to their comments following the meetings. Lenja said she will ask providers to what they have done as a result of receiving parents' comments. Meredith said she would look at a You Said, We Did approach with Richard. **(AP 3)**

County Council Budget / Business Planning

The children's and young people's budget was released in September and there is an overall reduction of £84 million needed over four years. Funding from the national government is being removed and Councils must fund based on council tax and business rates.

The disabled children's budget has a proposed £200k reduction for next year, after year on year reductions. There will be no major changes to the service provision available to families e.g. no closures of respite units; however individual budgets are likely to reduce. There has been a marked increase in the number of children accessing support through direct payments and individual budgets will continue to be assessed for level of need. There is likely to be more emphasis on facilitating groups such as Little Miracles.

A proposed cut is to post-16 home/school transport including SEN. The group acknowledged the impact this will have upon families, particularly in rural areas and young people attending special schools. It was suggested that the EHCP personal budget could be used more flexibly to incorporate transport post-16.

The county council will also be recommissioning children's centres, and SEN and enhanced and preventative services. This was consulted on prior to the budget review. Speech and language therapy will be cut but not to children and young people accessing through the CCG, but to services being delivered in children's centres as drop-in clinics.

The group discussed how to share the proposed budget cuts with parents and gather views, through a survey or workshop. Pinpoint will share information with parents through social media and ask parents to feedback to them. It's important to understand how individual families could be affected. **(AP 4)**

4. Feedback from participants

Bob – Passed on parent's view at a recent SENDIASS meeting: the council keep talking about the cuts and it gives them an excuse not to provide services.

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Richenda – Would like to see the EHCP personal budget element used more flexibly to allow for post-16 transport provision.

Jackie – Recently ran a dyslexia workshop along with the CCC Cognition & Learning team to gather parents' views on a guidance document being produced by the CCC. Overall feeling of parents is that they really want advice and support on dyslexia and schools don't have the necessary information to support their children. The workshop was full as soon as it was promoted which highlights the extra need for support in this area. Lenja will raise this at the next SEND Performance & Commissioning Board. **(AP 5)**

Meredith – There was a spending review last week to discuss proposed budget cuts. Councillors will be looking into options of raising council tax.

Tandy Harrison (shared by Lenja) – EHCP plans are failing, they are missing the fundamental purpose of what they are intended to do and this is being echoed by other parents. Meredith said she would be happy to meet with Tandy to discuss her concerns and SENDIASS should be involved as well. **(AP 6)**

5. Future Meeting Topics

- Thrive Model for Emotional Health & Well-being

Dates of future meetings

t.b.c.

Summary of Actions

AP1 - Update Terms of Reference and share final draft with group before the next meeting. (Lenja)

AP2 – Discuss with special schools options for opening up premises for activities for families outside school hours (Meredith)

AP3 - Look at a You Said, We Did approach for feeding back to families. (Meredith and Richard)

AP4 - Pinpoint to share information on budget cuts and resilience with parents through their network and ask parents to feedback to them. (Lenja)

AP5 – Raise concerns around dyslexia at SEND Performance & Commissioning Board. (Lenja)

AP6 – Arrange a meeting with Tandy Harrison and Meredith. (Lenja and Meredith)