

Parent Network Meeting – SEND Reforms

Ely, 14 March 2016 (Evening)

Home Start Cambridgeshire (Ely)

Attendees

Parents: 5

Service Providers: Bob Wilson, Eloise Riches, Josh Hanggong, Sue Bardell, Michelle Docking, Louise Sisley, Hilary Clarke, Charlotte Gwynn.

Pinpoint: Eve Redgrave, Lenja Bell, Judith Middleton

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

Communication:

- Poor transfer to school despite 2 meetings with the EY teacher & SALT. School did not put strategies in place or talk with the parent until there were huge behaviour problems – only at parents evening.
- Only now in spring term have they put an IEP in place.
- SEN support – very reliant on a good/supportive senco/head.
- SENCO – “driving force – working with the class teachers”
- Staff turnover in schools
- Communication – only when he misbehaves
- Some good transition experience from EY setting to school.

EHC Plans

- Parents have found it hard to fill in the paperwork.
- Hard to get your opinions/views as a parent over.
- Need examples of what is needed e.g. aspirations.
- It has been hard to get an educational psychology assessment for the transfer to EHCP (it was on the annual review)
- Draft copy of the EHCP plan did not reflect my child – re sub muted.
- As a parent I wanted it to reflect my child – not enough information from the assessments.
- Parents need to start planning for an EHCP early - make notes, prepare to write the parents section.
- It is good if nurseries pick up difficulties early – and an active SENCO.
- Process takes a long time.

Local Offer

- Was able to navigate it ok, using it to see what should also be included on the school website.
- There is a lot of information which can make it overly complicated to navigate, would like smaller more focused pages, indexes etc. If just wanted to find info about bus passes for example, just clicked a link which took me to the right information.
- Schools/SENCO's need to push the website more so families are more aware. Families to be given hard copies of the information.
- SEN information report & link to local offer provided more to parents, needs to be bigger on the website, parent mail, parent evenings.
- Childminders would be good to have this information on their page too.
- Was able to find contact numbers, but could be useful to have numbers altogether.
- Can be difficult to backtrack. Had difficulties filling out form for SCIP card, had to research for the page
- Doesn't go straight to local offer web page, navigate there either through google or council web page.
- Local offer to be on council website and also an explanation of what it is – should have button saying SEND.

School Information Report:

- What staff know is on the school's page, staff need to be proactive in making sure it becomes a reality i.e.3 meetings a year.
- Easier information about SENCO, their role, who its and how to contact them.
- A way to feedback information anonymously so parents can find out information/complain without fearing repercussions.
- Better information from schools about the use of TA's, pupil premium, use of SEND funding.
- Service providers being more proactive in going to schools to do information sharing/evening or attending local charities.

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.**