

Parent Network Meeting – SEND Reforms

East Cambs, 12 March 2015

Ely Library, Ely

Attendees

Parents: 18

Service Providers: Rachel O'Neill, Dawn Stilwell, Anna Tuck, Liz Graham, Maxine Crouch, Juliet Greer, Cheryl Lee, Paul Howard.

Pinpoint: Eve Redgrave, Jackie King, Jeannie Ambrose

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. Comment by professionals are given in italics.

- *Parents were told about the Autism pathway for children and adults and to feedback on this.*
- Start seem to be reliant on schools to carry out the new changes. Are they having adequate training? *Training was carried out in Sep/Oct that majority of schools signed up to. Independent people and those from social care and health also attended. More training will happen next term.*
- Expectations on plans have not always been high enough for the young person involved which leads to frustration.
- The statement met the child's needs better than the EHCP as that had been copied and pasted with vital provision left out.
- Universities have their own disability criteria and help which is often better than what is offered by the local authority in schools and colleges.

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- Schools are not telling us about putting the SEND report and policy on their website.
- Outcomes are not always looked at in a transition but there are some good examples.
- EHC is triggered by an educational need but child had educational excellence BECAUSE of TA support. The need is still there but they don't fall into the criteria.
- Professionals attending a transition meeting for a child they had never met before. EHCP still came back as a statement.
- Schools are excluding too much. Child care is a massive issue for working parents of SEND children.
- *Combined Health and social care budgets in a council in a different county have made the EHCP easier to manage.*
- Until budgets are combined the joint communication will not always work.
- At review meetings professionals (Eg. SALT and ED PYch) have been invited but never turn up. More professionals need to be available. *Try to set the time of the meeting around the professional*
- The system has let older children down by late diagnosis. 18 year old being diagnosed with Autism. This is too late.
- *There is a plan to put mental health clinics into schools.*
- *If you have no computer access a local offer leaflet will be available. LA want parent volunteers to input and help develop the leaflet.*
- Parents want childcare/childminders that can take children with SEN. Where is that info? More needs to be on local offer about this. *Vicky Chandler can help, call the childcare information helpline on 0345 045 1360*
- Parents very interested in the disability photo card from SCIP
- Do parents know that SENDIASS is parent partnership? That needs to be made clear on the support button.
- The directory needs more links to activities.
- Activities that aren't ofsted registered can't be on the directory.