

## **Pinpoint Parent Challenging Behaviour Meetings Summary March 2017**

### **Background**

Three meetings were held across three of the Cambridgeshire districts: East Cambs, Hunts and Fenland, and co-ordinated equally alongside existing parents support groups: Little Miracles Cambridge, Ely and Newmarket, Cambridgeshire SEND (Facebook) and Welcome 2 Our World (Wisbech). 28 parents input into these meetings, each had a Pinpoint member of staff, a rep from the parent group and Marian Cullen SEND Specialist Services Manager (Social, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health). These meetings were a pilot for a new way of running our pre-existing Network Meetings alongside parent groups. Parents were given the opportunity to speak about their situation and experience of challenging behaviour in the home, Marian then explained about the new training that be delivered out to Cambridgeshire (see details below). There was a groupwork section that consisted of parents answering questions around what would have helped them as parents in their situation, what would have most helped their child or young person and what would they like to see more of in Cambridgeshire. The answers are recorded below.

The following information was talked through by Marian and a copy given to each parent that attended:

### **Cambridgeshire County Council SEND Specialist Services Update**

#### **Who are SEND Specialist Services?**

SEND Specialist Services are made up of 7 multi-disciplinary teams of Educational Psychologists, Specialist Teachers and Specialist Practitioners, as well as a Sensory Support Service. These teams work in schools and settings to support children with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We work with children who present with challenging behaviour and are committed to reducing exclusion from school and reducing the use of restrictive physical intervention, (sometimes known as “restraint”, “holding” or “handling”). Our work with children and young people and those who support them in settings and schools, is done through assessment of needs; advice, guidance and training; direct teaching/intervention; and modelling of good practice. Referral to our service usually comes through the setting or school via a Pre-Consultation form or an Early Help Assessment (previously CAF).

#### **Current and future initiatives and projects**

##### **Positive Behaviour Support**

SEND Specialist Services are adopting the Positive Behaviour Support approach to our work and we will be training a number of our staff in the facilitation of Functional Behaviour Assessment. The PBS approach will support both SEND Specialist Services staff and professionals in schools to adopt a methodical approach to understanding the form and function of behaviour through a process called Functional Behaviour Assessment. Please find attached “What are the 5 signs of good PBS” document from BILD as well as a link to a short video explaining Positive Behaviour Support approaches. <http://www.bild.org.uk/capbs/pbsinformation/introduction-to-pbs/>

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We await the outcome of a £250,000 bid to Health Education England, having been successfully shortlisted. The project aims to bring CAMHS Clinical Psychologists into SEND Specialist Services for one year, to roll out free training and surgeries to families, schools and the Children's Services workforce in Positive Behaviour Support and Functional Behaviour Assessment. Work will be targeted in schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where there are a higher number of pupils in vulnerable groups being excluded or we are aware of the use of restrictive physical intervention.

### **Cambridgeshire Steps**

SEND Specialist Services are in the process of rolling out Cambridgeshire Steps, a four tiered training programme which can be offered to parents, frontline staff in Children's Services, setting and schools. The programme is designed within the principles and excellent practice of Positive Behaviour Support. Steps has an excellent evidence base, reducing the use of Restrictive Physical Intervention of children and young people in Hertfordshire Special Schools by 90% over three years. Cambridgeshire Steps is a therapeutic approach to behaviour management. It is well-researched, frequently updated and puts the emphasis on understanding behaviour rather than punishing it.

The model works on a "train the trainer basis" with the aim of having school staff trained who can champion the approach and train their staff. SEND Specialist Services will act as a 'hub' with a Central Tutor Team who will provide support to in-school and parent trainers, specialist advice around individual children and young people and annual Tutor Refresher training.

### **Feedback from group work**

#### **What would have made a difference to you as a parent?**

- Not being fobbed off, patronised or situation generalised (Parenting course or locality first rather than looking at the situation) x 3
- Not being made to feel your parenting is to blame (Parenting courses make people feel they have failed) or that you are a burden to services x 6
- Having understanding teachers and other professionals who listen and have appropriate knowledge x 4
- A link person in schools who listens and pays attention. General support from school. Inclusivity. x 3
- Parents need understanding of the process/pathway and referrals. Knowing who to ask about what. Should be clearer on the local offer using flow charts or Maps. System should be simpler using more common sense x 6
- Better communication across the board, cross county, schools, parents, Workers. Stop the 'them and us' mentality. Tell story once only x 5

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- Stop discharging too soon (Health), stay on the system but non active so don't have to start again x 2
- Not having to feel you have to fight for your and other children's educational rights x 2
- Help intervening with our children in a hands on modelled way x 2
- Counselling (Fear for child and family, uncertainty of the future) x 3
- Community and society training – shops, public services, toddler groups etc x 2
- DWP – Understanding hidden disabilities. Particularly mobility issues around these.
- Connecting with other parents x 2
- Homestart.

### **What would have made a difference to your child or young person?**

- People who listen, understand, empathise with appropriate knowledge and/or training x 5
- More parent knowledge.
- More support in school but not just around education (Social help and preparing for adulthood) x 6
- The right setting for the child, getting what they need with excellent home school communication x 4
- Better therapies x 3
- Better inclusivity but appropriate. This should be based on what the child wants and needs not a blanket policy. X 2

### **What would you like to see more of in Cambridgeshire?**

- A culture change. Flexibility. Open-mindedness. Accountability. Use of language (Empower parents and children, don't demoralise) X 5
- Less fighting to get what you need for your child. X 2
- Schools - Less children failing before they get support. Use of pupil passports regularly. More SEND teacher training. More inclusive spaces available x 4
- More family support at home and in school as child's problems affect the whole family unit, siblings, everything. X 4
- More funding for education and social care, OT and SALT. These to be easier to access x 4
- Better communication and continuity between services. Listen. X 3
- Better information and training for parents. X 2
- Challenging behaviour be framed in a good understanding of social and emotional mental health. Use person centred positive behaviour support. X 2

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- Knowing about parent carers forums straight away so they can share the existence of parent support groups immediately.

**Next Steps**

Pinpoint will update parents on how this work is taken forward.