

Cambridgeshire Partners in Commissioning Group (SEND)

Date: 5 November 2013 from 10am-12pm

Venue: Young Lives, St Ives

Present: Caroline Goodall, parent (SC Network, NAS Cambridge)
Lenja Bell, pinpoint (Cambridge Network)
Liz Dunn, pinpoint (Chair)
Eve Redgrave, parent (St Ives Parent Support Group)
Bianca Cotterill, parent (children with complex needs)
Bob Wilson, Parent Partnership Service
Richard Holland, Head of Disability (Social Care)
Lorraine Williamson, parent (Transitions)
Jane Ryder-Richardson, SEND Strategy and Commissioning
Fay Haffenden, Cambridgeshire Dyslexia Association
Anne Richardson, Transitions Development Manager

Apologies: Eva Alexandratou, Joan Adamson, Mary Whitehand,
Claire Bailey, Judith Davies, Elizabeth Locke, Sue Platt

Notes

1. Welcome and introductions

Liz welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Parents gave the disability of their child/ren.

2. Minutes from last meeting and matters arising

Minutes and actions from the last meeting on 16th July 2013 were agreed. Fay asked that the spelling of her name be corrected on page 2, under Action Point 1. Richard asked for an update on the childcare sufficiency work, from page 3. Lenja to check with Sue Platt for an update. (**Action Point 1**)

Actions from 16th July meeting:

Action Point 1: A focus group is being set up in Fenland and a cross border workshop will be run in the new year. Richard suggested that feedback should be taken to the regional parent carer network to work with other local authorities.

Action Point 2: Vanessa Hardy from pinpoint is meeting with Liz Graham of FIS on a termly basis. The group discussed the importance of an improved links regarding information available to

parents. This includes information from the Papworth Trust, FIS and pinpoint. Lorraine suggested that parents may find it helpful to have a series of questions or a flow chart to work through a problem and to find more information. Brief case studies were also discussed as being helpful.

Action Point 3, 4 and 5: pinpoint ran a workshop with In Control to gather parents' views on an evaluation tool for self-directed support. Five parents attended. Key points discussed at the workshop were:

If support works:

- Parent will be able to work, if he /she wants to
- Young person will be supported to have his /her own life so parent can have his / her own life
- Young person will be okay when parent is not there
- Young person is empowered to be independent and achieve potential
- Young person is employed, part of society, happy

Other feedback given by parents included:

- Assessment for short breaks is not transparent enough. If a child is deemed not eligible, what is the basis for the decision? *Richard commented that this information should be contained within FAQ's.*
- Direct payments work well but there is conflicting information on how they can be used. *Richard commented that it's not a black and white process.*
- Direct payment are working well (2 parents)

Bianca asked if anyone at the workshop represented the views of a profoundly disabled child. She said that when they grow older, education stops and it shouldn't. What will take its place? Special schools shouldn't stop at 18. You should be able to access them with self-directed support. Richard said that Sense may be able to provide further education. Jane said education could be provided by colleges so young person can transition to something different. The group agreed that the SEND Action Plan around transitions should work with adult services and the Learning Disability Partnership. (**Action Point 2**)

3. Discussion topics

October 2013 Parent Network Meetings- key messages:

Liz shared a handout from the network meetings which highlighted parent feedback around the hot topic 'changing schools'. The number of parents that attended was lower than in the past. Pinpoint is surveying parents and service providers to gather feedback on network meetings. Bianca said that this topic was not relevant to all parents. Liz wondered if the meetings should include a broader session for all parents. Bianca said that transition happens all the time and should be integrated between education, health and social care. Richard noted that the protocol for assessment for adult services is at 16, not 18. This should be shared with parents (**Action Point 3**).

Parents also highlighted administrative issues around letters regarding schools applications, statements, etc. Richard said that there are two different systems which don't work together – START and mainstream admissions team. It was agreed that staff need more training and a person-centred focus. Anne said she will be meeting with the STAR Team to discuss parent feedback and pick up these issues. (**Action Point 4**) Lenja said that parents need to be able to pick up the phone and speak to someone. Bob said that the PPS can help too and has a leaflet of top tips for parents.

Parent said they would like independent information regarding schools and the idea of having information like Trip Advisor or Netbuddy on the pinpoint website was supported. Pinpoint will look into this. (**Action Point 5**) Bob said that schools need to be more transparent and this should improve over time. Fay commented that all schools should meet a child's needs.

Parents also raised the issue of informal exclusions because schools were not ready to support a disabled child. Jane said that these exclusions are illegal, including half-day exclusions, and parents need to know. (**Action Point 6**)

Anne said that she would like case studies from parents on good and bad experiences. Anne will take these to her SENCo visits next term. Pinpoint will contact parents for case studies. (**Action Point 7**)

Some parents had commented that coming in from out of area was difficult and there were long delays in paperwork and starting school. Jane said that the local authority can't issue a statement until the family is in county, but can start preparing things earlier. Richard said it's important to get the previous LA to pass over information.

Anne also fed back from information she had gathered from the network meetings. She said the main themes were information (one stop shop), key people (SENCo), planning (processes and timescales) and empowering parents (networking opportunities).

Anne also said she had gathered parent feedback on a poster and website page. The poster will be put on hold for now while the content and information for the website is developed. The group discussed FAQ's and agreed that they are not a substitute for a good web page and you really need both. FAQ's should be short and worded in parent-friendly language.

In Control: this was covered within the minutes of the last meeting

Talk about Transitions 7:

Lenja said that 30 parents had registered and the focus was on 'living independently' with workshops and information stalls.

4. Feedback from participants

Richard – There will be more significant financial reductions at the County Council. Pinpoint should work to influence how services for disabled children are affected.

Jane- Autism Education Trust training is underway. By end of October 280 staff were trained at Level 1. Level 2 is starting. Highfields has trained all staff at Level 1 and some are starting at Level 2. Also, a commissioning strategy is being developed. Looking at needs now and over the next ten years. How do we recommission so budget is where the needs are? Context is increasing need and population growth. Current growth is not factored into DfE's budget. We will know more before Christmas. Code of Practice is out for consultation and it would be good to get parents' views. Can use CDC or young people's version. Liz said it's on our website and we are developing the pinpoint feedback through the NNPCF. Bob said that the latest PPS newsletter includes the Children & Families Bill proposals. Liz suggested that PPS and pinpoint prepare a joint feedback report. (**Action Point 8**)

Fay – The Dyslexia Association is not doing much in Cambridgeshire at the moment. They are hoping to get some after school workshops for students up and running, also to provide training for TA's.

Eve – The pinpoint conference will be on 24th January at the Burgess Hall in St Ives. There will be workshops, information stalls, and a Q&A panel. The theme will be participation.

Lenja – She finally has a follow up meeting scheduled with the wheelchair provider to pick up on issues raised by parents at a workshop in April. The Continence Action Group is looking to influence commissioning to provide more choice for parents, similar to direct payments.

Liz- there will be a pinpoint volunteer day for parents on 22 November. Also, facilitation training will be offered to parents in January, when pinpoint staff are trained.

5. Dates and venue for future meetings

Next meetings: to be set by pinpoint and circulated. These will mostly like be end of March / April and July. A suggestion was made to ask members for agenda topics in advance.

6. Action Points for next meeting

The following actions were agreed during the meeting:

AP1 - Lenja to get an update from Sue Platt on the childcare sufficiency work.

AP2 – Jane to look into developing education for profoundly disabled children after 18.

AP3 – pinpoint to share with parents that the protocol for assessment for adult services is 16.

AP 4 – Anne to pick up on issues raised by parents at her meeting with the STAR Team.

AP 5 -pinpoint to research the development of a Trip Advisor / Netbuddy facility on its website regarding information about schools.

AP6 – pinpoint to share with parents that school exclusions are illegal.

AP7 – pinpoint to obtain case studies on changing schools for Anne Richardson.

AP8 – pinpoint and PPS to prepare a joint report on parents' views on the new SEND Code of Practice