

Parent Network Meeting – SEND Reforms

South Cambs 11th March 2015

Papworth Trust, Papworth Everard

Attendees

Parents: 8

Service Providers: Peter Dawson, Teresa Grady, Carol McMain, Kathryn Inskip, Siobhan MacBean, Mary Whitehead, Marianne Gregorsen, Martine Simpson.

Pinpoint: Lenja Bell, Eve Redgrave, Jeannie Ambrose, Kari Payne

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.

- Bad experience with an I.E.P they vary in usefulness by school and teacher.
- *I.E.Ps are not statutory and should not be used if schools are using them as a tick box exercise.*
- Are schools actually doing what they say in the classrooms. Without the statement or EHCP you have no legal rights to challenge.
- If the teacher is a good match for the pupil everything works well. Without that good connection you give up.
- How often do schools meet with parents? *Should be a minimum of 3 times a year, if you need more you have it.*
- *Would be good to work with parents to develop class teaching together.*
- Is there a timeframe for the new legislation to be up and running? *This is a cultural change, it needs parental involvement and is a work in progress. This is what it should look like.*

- Does the new code of practise apply to all children even if they are on a statement rather than an EHCP?. *Yes all children should be covered under the new code of practise as it is an act of parliament.*
- Are the changes all part of ofsted inspections? *Yes*
- Are you meeting with schools to find out their needs? *Yes senco training has already taken place and there is more training next term and also for parents as well.*
- Is support dependant on the schools budget? *No. Once a child is shown to need SEND support the school is provided with enough money.*
- *In the code of practise once a child is identified schools should follow the Assess Plan Do Review pathway and timescales should be written down.*
- Having a child seen by the educational psychologist is used as a tick box exercise by school and the advice given is not carried out. *What support do you need as parents?*
- Help with social skills is sometimes more important for our children than academic progress. Schools are social areas and there needs to be more emphasis on social inclusion.
- You can't get an EHCP for a child if they are not far enough behind academically. Where does that leave you? *What support are you getting? Is it good enough? This needs to be fed back. We can't let these young people down. A child's needs are a child's needs irrespective of what help they receive.*
- Having an EHCP is seen as 'Safe' the child's rights are protected. You should feel safe in any situation though.
- Schools are just ticking off a list of what they have to do and think the job is done for that child. It's not.
- Should every child have a 'plan' What are the timescales for these?
- What is the eligibility criteria for an EHCP?
- Positive example of transfer over to EHCP from St Philips school. They are doing what is best for the child and they also organise coffee mornings for parents with SEND children to meet. Good practise.
- Will statements be more accessible? *Every child should be supported on a plan or not.*
- *What basic competencies do parents want from schools and teachers?*
- Need more communication with schools
- Behaviour should be included on an EHCP as support needed at home rather than school. But academic progress does not warrant having a plan. What do we do?
- *Take the school information report and SEND policy to meetings with school and check they are doing what they say they are.*

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- *Check your school has information report and SEND policy on their website. There is a duty for schools to report on their provision, it should be on their website now.*
- *No housing information shown on relevant page of local offer. This is very important for young people. This will be expanded in the P for A section*
- *How is the content on directory verified? Using only providers from the local authority at present. Cambridgeshire.net covers nearly everything else.*
- *The directory is finding services whereas the webpage is learning about what types of services are available.*
- *If any page has a last review date of over a year ago hit the feedback button and tell someone.*