Partners in Commissioning

11:00 -13:00

29th April

Maple Centre, 6 Oak Drive, Huntingdon, PE29 7HN

Members: Sarah Conboy, Esther Harris, Jackie King, Laura Potter, Linda Green, Christine Stocker-Gibson, Liz Day, Fay Dutton, Richard Holland, Miria Robinson, Rachel Allen, Emma Britton, Sharif Al Rousi,

Minutes

Present: Sarah Conboy, Helen Carr, Esther Harris, Christine Stocker-Gibson,Siobhan Weaver, Sharif Al Rousi, Teresa Grady, Laura Potter, Linda Green, Bianca Cotterill, Richard Holland, Faye Dutton, Jon Lewis, Marion Cullen, Janet Dulaghan

Apologies: Miria Robinson, Jackie King, Rachel Allen, Emma Britton, Liz Day

1. SEND Priorities for Cambs - Jon Lewis, Director of Schools

Jon gave a presentation about the SEND priorities for Cambs.

Key points from commentary:

* + - SEND is such an important part of what we do.
    - Change happens when everybody comes together.
    - This hasn’t been done well enough in the past, so we need to look at different approaches going forwards.
    - Need to bear in mind that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are very different areas.
    - Are expectations high enough?
  + 3 new special schools being built (Cavendish, North Stowe and Alconbury meaning

that although we are underserved at the moment, by 21/22 provision will be increased to the right level.

* + The system is massively under pressure with EHCPs up by 1/3 in 3 years.

There was a round table discussion where the following observations were made:

* + The new Champions Programme works well to address these issues.
  + Change in perception requires a whole system approach – need a shift in mindset amongst parents.
  + Need to try and get the message across to parents that you don’t need a label to get the support a child needs.
  + More School Heads are keen to be involved.
  + We are over placing in Special Schools in Cambridgeshire.
  + Need to be positive about our ability to place correctly in Early Years.
  + We need to be proactive and think about how we redirect our resources but also remove cliff edges whilst still being short of money.
  + Issues of cliff edge at the end of 25 years and all expertise about the young person risks being lost. How do we make sure that transition into adulthood is successful?

1. What it means for future Commissioning – Helen Carr, Lead Commissioner for Cambridgeshire LA (20 mins) Siobhan, Clinical Commissioning Officer CCG

Helene provided and update. There has recently been a consultation exercise looking at rising LAC numbers, SEND Agenda, respite, Local Offer, maximising scarce resource. Families need to feel supported in whatever context, remaining in their own homes wherever possible and if not in their own communities.

SEND sufficiency strategy - is it meeting need? Must be clear about the impact and outcome on these things. How do services bring added value? There are also gaps to fill. Need to change perceptions and expectations.

The Framework we have needs to be the same across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which is a challenge. How do we work together? We need to be creative.

Jon made the point that we need to look at how we got to where we are today. The SEND Strategy is now basically finished (thought to be the best co-produced piece of work done) but needs to be turned into an action plan. How does everyone work together better with a more consistent approach? There is real commitment to deliver this consistent approach looking at the EHCP.

Siobhan provided an update from Health. There will be training for GPs and Continuing Healthcare Assessments going forward concentrating looking at transitioning into Adult Services. Tribunals also a focus and looking at health part of EHCPs where the input needs improving. Personal Health budgets have remained at the same level although the aim to increase the number.

The discussion highlighted the following points: Some things need to be done at a group level, not always aimed just at an individual. Lots of benefits from doing it this way. Parents need to understand what they can do themselves. A new system for administering EHCPs is still being looked at using technology. There is an opportunity around ASD with early assessment instead of EHCP, and harnessing the teacher-parent link?

Sharif provided an update on the Chums Contract. In March at the Joint Commissioning Group there was concern about the number of children being seen and the length of time taken for this to happen. There is a 3-month review period results of which will be available in June.

The discussion highlighted the observation that there is a widespread anxiety in people supporting children and young people (parent carers, teachers and other professionals) as to whether they are skilled enough in Mental Health issues.

1. Feedback from participants – key issues and concerns.

In addition, the points already raised:

* How do we get social care into the room?
* Assurance from Jon that the LA won’t do anything without consulting parents firs, specifically where budgets are concerned.
* Marian was clear that the vital next step is co-production of SEND Strategy Action Plan.

Helen requested that we have declaration of interests at the start of each meeting.

ACTION: Interests to be declared a start of future meetings

1. Topics and dates for future meetings

Everyone agreed the membership and attendance as represented was appropriate and to continue, with the inclusion of Social Services Commissioners.

ACTION: All to confirm availability for future dates by mid-May.

1. Oct 10-12 venue tbc
2. Feb 10 – 12 venue tbc

6 May 10 -12 venue tbc

1. Any other business.

None