**Partners in Commissioning Minutes 4th February 2020**

**Maple Centre, Huntingdon**

**Attendees:** Sarah Conboy, Esther Harris, Helene Carr, Jon Lewis, Toni Bailey, Fay Dutton, Linda Green, Lucy Loia, Teresa Grady, Caroline Tyral -Jones, Laura Potter, Bianca Cotterill, Bob Wilson

**Apologies:** Richard Holland, Christine Stocker-Gibson, Marian Cullen, Helen Andrews, Sarah-Jane Smedmor, Sasha Long, Janet Dullaghan, Siobhan Weaver, Sandie Smith

**1.**Sarah welcomed attendees, introductions made and minutes from previous meeting approved. (**AP1 SC Update re emergency medication issue on school transport)**

**2 – Briefing on CCC Budgets and priorities: setting the scene for the coming financial year - Jon Lewis:**

Key point to note:

* Information presented to the Minister for Education was shared.
* Significant challenges ahead because of low funding. Less than expected because the national formula has no recognition of EHCPs or the 16-25 age group.
* With the £16m deficit, there will have to be cuts. Even with the increase in funding when compare to the previous year it is not enough. ½ 0f all Las will have a deficit this year.
* 1.8% of the schools budget could possibly be redirected to High Needs but this probably won’t be agreed. Also consulting on After School Clubs and withdrawing transport.
* To achieve the required savings there need to be changes in the system to make it more efficient but this must be done without reducing expenditure on children with SEND who need it.

FD asked how the STEPS program was going and JL said there was good evidence of it working where it is already being used with great stories coming back from schools. EH added that she has done the STEPS training and that PP want to roll out a form of it to parents whose children have SEND because it is important that both parents and children are both engaged. JL said that they plan to roll out an Early Years form too.

TG said that children are not being put on SEND support early enough. LP wants parents to work out what is needed earlier, and make sure that SENCOs are well supported to help with this. JL advised that this is already being looked at to make sure they have what they need and per BW SENCO cluster meetings are already providing support. SC said that SENCO support is required earlier rather than waiting for a full-blown assessment.

**3 – Update on Commissioning Priorities – what’s planned – Lucy Loia and Helene Carr:**

Key points to note:

* Commissioning timeline was shared.
* Going forward HC wants to be able to feed back the impact that changes in commissioning have.

SC said that the timeline was very helpful, but school holidays needed to be taken into account.

**4 – Post Peterborough Inspection and lessons for Cambs – Toni Bailey:**

Key points to note:

* It’s thought that the next inspection for Cambridgeshire will be January 2021
* It is assumed that the issues highlighted in the Peterborough report will the ones that will be brought up in the one for the rest of Cambs with the focus on how we connect all services. Issues raised in the last inspection held in Cambs will also be looked at too though.

.It was identified that there is an inherent difficulty as children’s commissioning is 0-18 but the expectation of the Act is 0-25 years. CCC and PCC will need to resolve this.

Commissioning intentions were tabled.

1. Recommission of short breaks.
   1. Benchmarking LINK
   2. positive behavior support service (Pam Parker previously presented to PiC) – starting to have a real impact – identifying children and offering families support and strategies at home.
2. Launching community short breaks
3. Mediation service recommissioning.
4. Contract monitoring of CHUMS 0-25 – the significant volume remains the key issue. CCC are addressing the issues raised at the last PiC meeting.
5. Autism Strategy was 0 -25 and will become all age in line with national changes
6. Children’s Commissioning website – part of it to be focus/forum based (to enable participation and engagement).

**4 – Future Commissioning - Karlene Allen**

Observations:

* Frustrations about the result of SEND inspection particularly around the role of DCO but to take this as an opportunity and paper to CPFT Exec seeking additional resources.
* Lots of pockets of excellent work going on but might not be labelled as SEND
* Fair assessments on waiting times
* Looking at autism strategy and SEND strategy

**5 – Feedback – All**

CHUMS – already covered under item 3.

Transport –We already have a joint Transport Charter. The issues already surfaced in paper to new CCC/PCCC SEND Executive Board – tendering not understood by parents, tendering changes coincide with summer holidays and start of new academic year but causes communications challenges and change issues for service users. Could anything be done to look at how we could reduce impact on users including timing tendering differently? Medical needs and school transport are problematic, and parents are concerned about risk. Some children not accessing school and some now suing medical ambulances. CCC actively trying to resolve and PP would be pleased to hear updates.

ACTION: JL and MC will raise with Hazel Belchamber as the lead officer, who will work with HC to resolve.

ACTION SC to circulate Transport Charter to all

**6 – Topics and dates for future meetings and meeting dates**

Transport update

ACTION TB to invite Hazel Belchamber to attend and provide an update

ACTION – all to propose additional items ahead of next meeting.

Date of next meeting s: 3 Feb 10-12 and 6 May 10-12

1. **AOB**

None requested

Meeting closed.