# Pinpoint Network Meetings 2019-2020

# Meet *the Assistant Director for SEND and Pinpoint’s CEO Sarah Conboy*

# 18 Oct Cambridge, 20 Nov Ely (cancelled), 15 Jan Huntingdon, 23 Jan Wisbech

## Background

Upon coming into post, Toni Bailey committed to regularly meeting with parent carers at Pinpoint’s suggestion. This is the first round of these meetings. These meetings were held around the Local Authority. Ely was cancelled due to sickness.

**Issues raised**

**Lack of provision –** ECHPS are sound but there is matching provision available

**SENCOs, headteachers and class teacher lack specialist knowledge** – about specific diagnosis, needs and legislation

**Information needs to be accessible –** parent carers may also have needs so information needs to be clear, easy to read and accessible

**Occupational Health providing Sensory Processing Advice –** is this happening for schools to enable them to support children and young people

**Earlier Identification of needs is key** withs supportive strategies in pace earlier

**Capacity to support SEND in schools**

**Resilience amongst families –** it can be hard work and many families lack respite and the support they feel they need

**Getting a diagnosis matters to families** access to support and resources for children and a recognition of need matters

**Accessing assessments needs to be easier and earlier**

**Foster Carers –** may not feel as well supported as they would wish – role of parent carer

**Smoking in school for under 16yrs** **with SEND**– should it be allowed? No

**Attendance certificates discriminate for children with SEND** who cannot attend regularly. Excludes some from rewards offered in school.

**Access to Mental Health services –** still difficult

**Parents often commission and manage child’s services and support** hugely under-estimated and time consuming. Not all parent carers can do this.

**Use of IT –** so often too little time allocated to practicalities including setting up the hardware, software and training

**Awareness of needs relating to genetics** bit enough known and yet there is help available – Rare Disease Network in Cambridgeshire

**Post 16 offer is variable and there are difficulties moving from one level to next as not a coherent Cambs offer.** There is a lack of support for SEND accessing level 1 and 2 courses

**Need for a residential post 16 education offer** exists elsewhere (E.g. Lincs and Glos.) but no local offer

**SAT team –** helpful but support for parent carer doesn’t go far enough

**Peer Support through the process (ECHA and ECHP, Annual Reviews)** is something more parent carers would welcome

**ECHP quality** – do not always say what parent carers want, inconsistent quality and some are not completed correctly

**Compliance** how do we address schools who are not delivering what is in the ECHP?

**Section 47 –** feels like ‘parent battering’

## Next Steps

## Toni addressed a number of the issues raised with those who raised them. He has committed to taking the issues back and we will ask for an update in the coming month.