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**Pinpoint Forums’ Participation Group**

**21 March 2024**

**Attendee organisations:** Rare Disease Network, Living Sport, Little Miracles, FASD Support Group Local Authority, Pinpoint

**Apologies:** Downs Syndrome Group, Spectrum, FASD Support Group, Cambridgeshire Dyspraxia, Safe Soulmates, Health

**Other invitees:** NAS Cambridge, Dreamdrops, Arthur Rank Hospices

1. **Welcome and Introductions (Terms of Reference circulated with meeting invite)**

Pinpoint welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made. The session ensures we hear all voices, as not every parent carer will access Pinpoint, and we all reach different families. We want to hear all those voices.

1. **Feedback (what’s working well, better if and urgent issues to be addressed)**

**Short Breaks** – this is working well, and those accessing the service seem positive about how it works and the benefits it brings. Not everyone who could access it knows about it. Not everyone who could apply for DLA is doing so – Little Miracles, DISH and others provide support who can help parent carers complete forms.

ACTION: Can the LA do more to publicise what is available and how to access it?

**Virtual School training for trauma and Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FASD**) is really good, and the knowledge from those taking part transfers across whole schools to benefit a wider range of children and young people. However, there is an opportunity to use this training to benefit health professionals.
ACTION: Health colleagues to consider accessing the virtual school training to enhance workforce training and development.

Could virtual school be an option for children who cannot attend school due to serious health needs?

ACTION: Health colleagues to consider this proposal.

**Placements at key stage changes**—Some families are reporting this working well, though it would be fair to say that others are having issues with our paperwork being read in a timely way. It was noted that the volume of forms to be completed is challenging for parent carers, and anything that would make this simpler and easier, such as a ‘do once’ system, would be appreciated.

**Healthy Child Weight Management Service**. This is a new offer (with Living Sport) to help children get active. Not all of the group knew much about his programme.
ACTION: Pinpoint to follow up with Living Sport and see if there could be opportunities to promote it to parent carers (as well as partners).

**EHCPs are not being completed in time (reviews, drafts).** It was noted that families are reporting paperwork not arriving, taking much longer than is comfortable, or enabling the right provision to be at pace quickly enough. This is a known issue, and the LA explained the interim measures being put in place to address this – additional staffing in the Statutory Assessment Team, more support from the specialist teacher and educational psychology teams, an new online case management system, a new SAT manager and the new pilot Neuro Diversity in Schools projects (PINS). It was felt that telling families this work was taking place my provide greater reassurance that the LA were prioirtising getting the timescales back on track,

ACTION: The LA should work with their communications team to explore further communication with families. Pinpoint could also share these messages with families.

**Support for PFA in Mainstream and for those out of school**—the offer in Special schools is more coherent and better understood by families but seems lacking in mainstream schools. What exists needs to be publicized more, and more could be offered to help families prepare young people for the next stages of their move into adulthood. Not everyone in the meeting knew about the LA’s upcoming PfA conference.
ACTION: The LA will share the information with this group so that they can cascade it to their parent carers.

**Can we have an update on the neurodevelopmental pathway?** Several Group members would like to get more involved and are keen to hear about what progress has been made.

ACTION: Health will consider how engagement might be extended to this group, and an update will be provided to all parents.

ACTION: Health will provide an update at the meeting of this group next term.

1. **Information shared:**

**Pilot for those who are refused an Education Health and Needs Assessment but where the needs may need to be supported as the child moves between primary and secondary.** The LA has recognised that some children may have needs that additional transition arrangements could support, which may reduce the risk of young people dropping out of school in the first year or so after the transition. It does not stop appeals. It may address some of the emerging issues of emotionally-based school avoidance. The pilot has started ahead of September school moves.

**Targeted Intervention Grant to assist schools in addressing short-term needs with** additional support programmes for individuals and groups. The pilot would help to consider if this type of intensive early intervention could enable some children’s needs to be better met earlier.

The Local Authority anticipates that a SEND OfSted inspection will take place in the next twelve months—probably sooner. The LA will add comments from this meeting to its Self-Evaluation Form (SEF), which examines the issues facing SEND Children and their families. Pinpoint has been providing regular feedback, including the write-up from partition sessions, including this one.