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**Partners in Commissioning**

**Meeting Note 21 March 2025**

**10:00 – 12:00** **Virtual**

**Partner Attendees:**

**Pinpoint** Sarah Conboy (CEO); Bianca Cotterill (Finance); Lisa Belton (Deputy CEO); Sarah Guscott (Trustee)

**CCC:** Kelly Law (SEND Local Offer), Lucy Munt (Head of Service, Children’s Commissioning). );Nicola Dawes (CCC Commissioning Officer), Rosa De Maio (Senior Commissioning Manager SEND, CWD, Children & Families; Clare Cook (Interim Assistant Director for Education Inclusion).

**Social Care:**

**Health:** Kathryn Goose (Commissioning), Sue Allan (Healthwatch)

**Apologies:**

Janet Dullaghan (Pinpoint Chair of Trustees), Sue Berry (Vice Chair of Trustees), Amy Wyles (Pinpoint Deputy Comms Officer), Linda Green (Participation); Kirsten Clarke (CCC AD Carers Partnerships); Angela Buxton (Head of SENDIASS); Josie Lynn. Head of Disability Social Care Service 0 – 25), XXXX (CCC Head of SAT and Complex Cases), Andrew Jones (CCC Commissioning Manager, SEND), Lizzie Robertson (CCC Commissioning Manager, Children with Disabilities), Sarah Callaghan (Director of Schools Siobhan MacBean (Disability Care Service), Raj Laksham (Public Health commissioning), Siobhan Weaver (Designated Clinical Officer);

1. **Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Sarah C welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

1. **Previous Minutes and Outstanding Actions**

The previous minutes were agreed, and the actions were noted as complete.

1. **Current commissioning and service issues:**

Health: Mental Health

* + Service demand update –Kathryn

There has been the usual seasonal November spike in referrals, but unusually, this increase has continued into the Spring, where there would usually be a drop in requests. Services are seeing more families requesting support. A&E has also seen is usual winter increase in demand.

The YoUnited Contact will be retendered in 2026. When it writes the new specification, Health will consider lessons from its other contracts, including the one supporting children with Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA).

***ACTION***; Lisa will work with Kathryn to consider parent carer participation/coproduction opportunities. Lucy will also loop in the CCC commissioning team.

Health has a new Plan On A Page and a system priority of children’s mental health. It will also examine governance and how it can better integrate the different partners and responsible bodies. The new Children and Young People’s Board is key to this.

Clare reminded us that CCC has three new Enhanced Resource Bases for Emotional and Social Mental Health needs in schools: Winteringham, St Lawrence, and Townley. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to combine this work with the Integrated neighbourhood work. Sarah suggested other links with the Neurodiversity Pathway and the potential bid to the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation that both Forums intend to submit to address health inequalities. Lucy also picked up the customers across CCC and Health, who could do more together in family support.

It was noted that the EBSA service provided by Nessie had fewer referrals than anticipated. There was a reflection that families access a range of support, and some EBSA families were being supported through other services. This is a learning opportunity as we plan for future support.

Healthwatch:

* + Update on recent activity and any issues - Sue

Healthwatch has developed a new five-year plan, with young people and mental health as a priority in year one. Their Youthwatch group is interested in doing some work on neurodiversity.

***ACTION****:* Sarah C to introduce Sue to Steve Murphy, who is leading on a new Neurodiversity Pathway commission. DONE

Health – Siobhan W

* NHSE changes and any potential local changes

It was noted that recent Government announcements provide headline change of travel for NHSE (to close) and for the Integrated Care System (50% savings by November but unclear how to be achieved). This will mean uncertainty for staff and workstreams until clarification is forthcoming.

ACTION: Kathryn will share the position statement that our Integrated Care Board (ICB) has issued:

*“I understand that it may have been concerning to read that ICBs have been asked to cut costs by 50%. Your health and well-being are vitally important to us, and we will continue to provide the care you need. We will work hard to minimise any disruption and will keep you informed as our work to reduce costs progresses.”* DONE

* JSNA headlines since the new report was published

The Joint Statement of Needs Assessment is published on Cambridgeshire Insights ([Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight – JSNA 2023](https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/jsna-2023/)) . Whilst a number of us have coproduced the latest version it has not yet appeared on the website.

***ACTION:*** Sarah C to provide a link to the Insights Page - see above DONE

Clare confirmed that Cambridgeshire County Council uses the JSNA alongside its SEND Sufficiency Statement to inform SEND planning. The SEND Sufficiency Statement will be published shortly. Kathryn confirmed that the ICB also uses benchmarking data to inform commissioned services.

Sue shared that Healthwatch has a health-related behaviour survey, which is also relevant here.

* Neurodiversity Pathways Update

A new commissioning group is developing a service specification. Sarah C has been clear that parent carer production and coproduction with schools are still needed. Sarah G raised the issue of more SEND being included in initial teacher training. Sarah C reported that Pinpoint had included this feedback in the government when they responded to the SEND Crisis Call For Evidence, as many parent carers have made the same suggestion.

Commissioning: Rosa

* SALT /OT

Work is being done to recommission these services to Cambridge Care Services. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

* Alternative Provision /Out Of School Tuition and Independent Special Education Provision Service block contract and recommission.

A new framework will be in place for 2026. Commissioners want to coproduce the specification. As the work will also be regional, Sarah C reminded commissioners that Pinpoint is part of the Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum.

***ACTION:*** Rosa and Lisa will collaborate on coproducing the specifications for the new AP/OOST/ISEP services.

* Commissioners confirmed that the new five-year contract for Pinpoint is ready for signing. Sarah C noted that this was much appreciated and gave the Forum the ability to plan.
* Lucy confirmed that the next face-to-face forum for commissioners and providers is due shortly. Pinpoint are welcome

***ACTION:*** Sarah C to check the invite received and in the diary DONE

* The new mediation contract has been retendered and goes live in April. The provider remains the same.

Social Care: no report as no one in attendance

* + CQC Inspection Update
  + Engaging Adult Social Care – do we have the right people around the table

Education: Clare

* + Inclusion Strategy and priority areas

The new strategy has been developed (drawing heavily on the previously extensively coproduced SEND Strategy) and will be coproduced further as it moves into delivery.

* + Post OfSted Inspection feedback – may be too early

The report has been delayed by OfSted capacity and is likely to be held up by the pre-election period, so it is anticipated to be published in May.

Pinpoint:

* + Funding Update

Sarah C confirmed that funding was in place from the Department for Education (very later confirmation nationally), CCC and the ICB. This enables Pinpoint to continue its core work.

* + Annual Survey
  + This has been launched. We had the biggest response OfSted had seen to their survey following our extensive communications and promotions so we anticipate numbers for our own survey could be small. Although OfSted does not allow the Forum or LA to see the survey response, they did indicate that broadly a third were positive about experiences, a third were negative and a third reported it was sometimes good and sometimes poor. This matches the broad spit we usually hear about in our surveys.
  + You Said, We Did

Pinpoint publishes an update every six months and will do so shortly. All reports can be found here: [Pinpoint's Annual Reports - Pinpoint](https://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk/about-us/annual-reports/)

* + Annual Conference Feedback

The conference was held on 13t March. We had over 100 parent carers attend and more than 40 provider/sector stalls for them to visit. There were eight workshops, and parents could book appointments with the specialist teachers team. The feedback has been positive, but recognises we are beginning to outstrip the capacity of the venue and the expectations of what is provided free of charge (and for which Pinpoint must secure additional funding for each year as it's not part of the core offer).

* + National Lottery Funded Project

Pinpoint has secured five years of funding to provide in-person Tii hubs (across each district) and resources to reach more families. This is most welcome and will enhance the core offer, providing service stability for the coming years and enabling us to have an even greater impact on children and young people.

1. **AOB**

* Closure of the Learning Disability Partnership (LDP)

Bianca reported that the closure of the LDP was a worry for the families of the children with the most complex needs. While it's known that complex cases will transfer to the ICS, there is no clarity on who will take responsibility and how this will work in practice. Bianca is meeting Sally Shaw at the ICB to discuss a way forward.

ACTION: Bianca and Lisa will set up a participation session and provide feedback to the ICB. IN PROGRESS

We discussed that access to health post-16 remains challenging for our most complex children. It was proposed that Siobhan McBean, Sally Shaw and Pinpoint would be best placed to attempt to describe to parent carers how the system works.

ACTION: Bianca and Lisa will set up a meeting with Sally and Siobhan McB to produce a guide /map for families. They will follow up with Kelly to get it on the Local Offer.

* Partners in Neurodiversity In Schools (PINS) pilot and PINS #2

The pilot is concluding, and parent carers' feedback indicates it's positively impacted. The ICB, CCC and Pinpoint have submitted a bid for a final phase of PINS, although there are concerns about the ability to staff this (this was before recent health funding announcements).