
Local Offer Governance Meeting

24th November 2017

Present:

Kathy Forsdyke, Nikki Taylor, Shannon and David Johnson, Jo Bradley (DCT) Liz Sagi (Transitions Team) and Sonia Stringer and Lorraine Flint?

Apologies received from:

Jane Smith (SSS) Heidi Redmond (Leading Senco) Rachel Akers (DCO) and Zoe Robinsons(NAYC) Sandra Mole. (Pen green)

Kathy explained that she and Sandra had been unsuccessful in getting Skype for Business to work when they tested it. The phone conference facility was also unsuccessful.

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Information Action Plan to raise awareness of Local Offer with mainstream schools.

Kathy is presenting to parent support workers across the county – currently visiting the north and east of the county

Publicised through Schools weekly e-mail offering a visit to schools. Two have responded so far.

Shared information again through Inclusion Network

Shared through Early Years newsletter

Agreed to contact Supplementary Schools again – Nikki has a contact

2. Story Board

An update to the Story Board had been made as agreed at the last meeting. An updated copy was shared with the agenda

3. Feedback

Only two Viewpoint surveys had been completed from young people and the board had no comment to make.

Discussed the potential for young people to use Young Northants more and provide them with more video files to gather information. It was agreed that this is an area that would be really positive to develop in the future. Liz felt that links with LIVE and media training in college would be really beneficial.

It is likely to be something to include in the PFA action plan as part of the SEND strategy.

Agreed to discuss with the Participation and Engagement Board too.

Sonia was able to provide some feedback as part of National Takeover Day to the SMT about disabled access to One Angel Square. She told the meeting that the buttons were too high at the front door and she was unable to use them. The accessible door is heavy and there is no sign as to whether to push or pull it open and isn't automatic. The disabled parking bay is not adjacent to the dropped kerb and while Sonia has an electric chair anyone having to push a wheelchair would have to struggle uphill over the cobble stones.

No other feedback had been provided to the Local Offer about it which suggests that families are on the whole, satisfied with it.

4. Education

Heidi was unable to attend today as she is in the process of changing school roles. Kathy had met with her at the Inclusion Network meeting to catch up about the Local Offer and wider EHC team.

5. Health

Rachel was unable to attend today due to a staffing commitment. Kathy had met with her after the DCYPDG to catch up about the Local Offer and wider EHC team.

Awareness raising – top 20 - this was agreed as a useful idea and will be prepared

The group suggested including the following in the list. Kathy will share a list with the group when finished.

Sports, IASS, transitions, DCT, Autism Concern, Downs Groups, Daisy Chain, STEPS (18+ early intervention adult service) NAYC as well as statutory services, recreation and leisure and specialist support services.

6. Social Care

Jo reported that she is the new DCT manager following in Dan Newbolt's footsteps. This is her 2nd week.

Liz reported that the Transitions Team have set up a series of workshops to share knowledge of services. She thinks that this would be of wider benefit for staff, parents and young people.

The new Transitions team are committed to not using locums to improve continuity. Pleased to report that the new team is virtually complete. Liz will be creating named links with special schools and Kathy offered to publish on Local Offer if it is deemed helpful.

The Transitions Team are getting to lots of events to build bridges with young people and their families.

David suggested that when the pathways to Transitions are confirmed that this should be published on the Local Offer.

Nikki asked if one of the new team could represent Transitions at the SEND participation group.

Liz offered to attend one of the NCFG sessions to introduce herself and her team. Agreed that this will be good when Transitions are established to attend as a guest speaker. Nikki also invited Liz to an IASS team meeting.

NCFG have a slot in One Angel Square on 5th December offering to meet professionals. Staff encouraged to meet them and make links. Nikki will re-share the information that was published on Informer with the group.

7. Personal Assistant Register

A parent has suggested that a PA register would be useful. Liz and Jo confirmed that Northamptonshire does not have this at the moment even as part of NASS. Parents in receipt of a personal budget have to use an agent, or advertise themselves and become an employer. NCC provides support for employer responsibilities such as payroll, NI, annual holidays etc.

Agreed that Kathy will investigate and see if Leicestershire have launched theirs. It would be a useful link on the LO

8. Short Breaks Consultation

Sonia and Lorraine reported that the Short Breaks Consultation is running from 26th October until 6th December and they have been visiting schools and youth clubs around the county. They recently attended Northgate School and Tresham College to talk to the student council. Some of the students knew about Short Breaks and some didn't. They left copies of the consultation for the school and will return to collect them.

The Short Breaks questions were developed by Shooting Stars for young people.

It was reported that contributions from the Daventry area are low at the moment. IASS have been sharing the information at all the parent groups that they have been attending and encouraging parents to contribute. There has been lots of information on social media about the consultation. Nikki talked about the understanding that the community has around Short Breaks. Greenfields Staff were not sure either about what it meant. It was agreed that facilitated consultation has been successful. On reflection it would have been helpful to some of our students to have the consultation with a pictorial representation as well as in Easy Read.

It was proposed that Kathy contact Rachel and suggest that there is an opportunity to share via the Chronicle and Echo the closing date.

Sonia said that there was interest in horse riding but that there wasn't a riding school with a hoist. This could be an interesting commissioned support. Kathy will raise it with the commissioner.

Shooting Stars are at capacity for numbers and there is a waiting list at the moment to join.

9. Date of next meeting:

Proposed 15th March 2018 at 11.00 to 12.30 pm