

Minutes from the Local Offer Governance Group
held on Thursday 22nd November 2018

Present: **David Johnson Kathy Forsdyke, Zoe Robinson, Jo Bradley, Lorraine Flute, Jane Smith**

Apologies: **Nikki Taylor, Rachel Akers, Heidi Redmond, Liz Sagi,**

1. Matters Arising From the Last Meeting

Personal Assistant Register - The Local Offer Quick guide had been published on the website. And coincidentally, the Commissioners have been reviewing the Personal Assistant experience for families. They have shared a survey with over 30 responses
Transitions Pathway

2. Local Offer Ofsted Story Board (attached)

Kathy had shared a draft amended copy with the agenda. A few queries were raised and consider if Children First Northamptonshire logo should be included in it. Kathy will save the revised version.

3. Feedback to the Local Offer

- a. Feedback received from families attending a sport open day in the summer on social media needed tactful handling. Kathy asked a colleague in Northamptonshire Sport to raise it with the centre. They have agreed to put on more training for all the volunteers and staff to inform awareness of invisible disabilities.
- b. Kathy raised that there has been some comments from parents trying to use facilities provided by the Leisure Centres in Northampton and have been told that they won't be adapted in the near future to enable parents to help their disabled youngsters. The group agreed that Kathy should take this up with the Borough Council concerned and their disabled forum group and challenge their use of the Equalities Act and reasonable adjustments.

4. Report from Education

Kathy reported that education settings are now starting to use an online form for making Statutory Requests for Assessment. The process has been tested in the Northampton area, and is now being used by the Kettering and Corby area, with the remaining areas taking it up in the new year.

Students are now able to complete a secure, online survey as part of their annual review to capture their opinions.

5. Report from Health

Rachel was not present to report

6. Report from Social Care

Ofsted

Jo reported that we are acutely aware of the results of the recent Ofsted focussed inspection

and the media attention it has generated. The focus was solely on the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub/Front door referral arrangements and there is no “grading “ from it. However there are recommendations that will be taken forward with the Disabled Children’s Service. Jo reported that there is going to be extensive work undertaken, led by Theresa Grant, the current CEO and Sharon Muldoon, the acting director of Children’s Services, and also the new Childrens’ Commissioner that the LA has appointed. It is a difficult time, but optimistic that things will improve.

Transitions Pathway

Jo and Liz are working together on the Transitions Pathway which is a large piece of work, so they are dividing it into manageable sections. There is a close working arrangement around the transition point with the children’s and adult teams and it is believed that there have been huge improvements in the management for young people and their parents at this time.

Liz Sagi attended the NPFPG meeting recently.

Kathy commented that the Local Offer and IASS had been to Transition Events organised by the Special Schools and had reservations that parents don’t receive the same information at each event, as it depends on which provider is invited and is able to attend.

David suggested that there could be a co-produced event from IASS/LO/NPFPG/Transitions to provide something better for the families.

7. Report from Specialist Support Services

Jane reported that the SSS continue to offer the courses and consultations for parents. The consultations tend to be held at either William Knibb or One Angel Square as well as the two parent groups. It is hoped that they will be able to use the locality bases and Children’s Centres in the future. Staffing levels are impacting on the team.

8. Any Other Business

a. Shooting Stars

The recent logo competition had received 89 entries for a new design. There is a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize and the Shooting Stars plan to present the winners in their school assemblies.

Kathy asked if this could be a SNIX article for the Spring 2019 edition.

The Stars are planning a Christmas Party to be held on 20th December and will be inviting all the DCYPDG members and those professional they have worked with over the last year. Everyone needs to wear a Christmas jumper. Lorraine will be sending invitations.

Take Over Day will be held later on 22nd and the Stars are meeting with the Commissioners to look at how the commissioning process happens and to have a look to see if there are any youth groups for young people aged over 18.

NAYC are attending the Sport 4 Fitness group that runs on Sundays to offer them support.

NPFPG are launching a closed Facebook group for parents only.

NPFPG are holding a conference on 23rd November but have had to cancel the planned session on 24th due to insufficient numbers.

Kathy needed to report to the group that the annual audit is now 90% complete. The audit this year was larger as EY and schools included in it and less staff to do it. Therefore significantly slower. Aiming to complete by end of November and then start on the documents audit to ensure that the Local Offer remains current and up to date. She wasn't able to report to the meeting as the wireless network was down and wasn't able to access her meeting notes.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Spring – end of Feb/early March – members to provide convenient dates and then Kathy will book