

Local Offer

Governance Group

Date 25 November 2020

Location online via Zoom

Present:

Kathy Forsdyke, Charlie Furniss, Lorraine Flute, Nikki Taylor, Liz Sagi, Sam Lavender,

Apologies:

David Johnson, Rachel Akers, Zoe Robinson, Jo Bradley

1. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

Short Break statement - A draft document has been seen and is waiting for approval.

Disaggregation of NCC - The Local Offer is likely to be separated into two for the new unitary authorities according to the Blue Print that has been distributed to staff

2. Report from NPFG

David had been unable to attend the meeting, but Nikki reported that she had been informed that there was some restructuring of the NPFG going on, as well as a new website.

3. Local Offer annual report (attached)

The governance group accepted the annual report and agreed that it should be presented to the DCYPDG as usual and published on the Local Offer website.

4. Local Offer Ofsted Story Board –

The governance group accepted the amended Story Board and recommended that it be kept as a record of the year's work

5. Feedback to the Local Offer (attached)

This was distributed with the agenda, but not discussed at the meeting. (but included in the annual report)

6. Report from Education

Charlie reported that schools undertaking the recent SEND review framework have stated that they will be sharing the Local Offer more with parents and carers.

Charlie is keen to ensure that schools can access what information they need and to provide some exemplar evidence for schools to use: some schools are feeling quite isolated. There is some concern that during the current term, pressures in schools are putting strains on the monitoring of provision for students with EHC plans. Family Support Workers are proving invaluable.

The Inclusion Network meetings are being offered differently and SEND Training and Development is being offered online via Zoom with a one hour slot every two to three weeks, focussing on one topic. So far schools have been offered:

- Good mental health for staff and students
- The annual review process
- Provision mapping and tracking
- Person-centred planning
- On-line learning – the effective use of teaching assistants.

Nikki and Kathy will consider an online survey or other engagement tool with families to find out about support in schools after the full return in September 2020

Kathy informed Charlie that the themes identified during the LA telephone survey during the Lockdown would be available, if helpful.

7. Report from Health

While Rachel Akers had sent her apologies, Samantha Lavender was able to report that the Child Development Centre had reopened for face to face assessments, but with different arrangements. Kathy was able to report that the recent Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) meeting had confirmed that all new born hearing screening was now up to date and that Out-Patient clinics in Audiology, were on the whole, seeing patients face to face, with video preparation as needed.

8. Report from Social Care

Children's – Jo Bradley was unavailable for comment.

Lorraine Flute reported that she had been re-deployed during the first lockdown and had worked shifts in one of the children's homes.

Lorraine has now transferred to the Northamptonshire Childrens Trust on 1 November 2020 with no change to her current role. She meets fortnightly with Shooting Stars using Zoom and supports them in a wide range of work in their roles as a focus group.

Adults – Liz was able to inform the meeting that in anticipation of the disaggregation of the LA in April, Northamptonshire Adult Social Services (NASS) have had a complete restructure and now offer support through Community Hubs, Inclusion Teams and a separate service for people of all ages with Learning Disabilities, for each Unitary Authority. The 18 to 25 Disabilities Team is now disbanded and the staff and services are incorporated into the restructured, mostly within the Learning Disability teams.

Liz is confident that the new method of working will be beneficial for adults needing social care in Northamptonshire. Liz has retained a county wide strategic role ensuring that young people receive equitable services in both authorities.

9. Report from Specialist Support Services

Sam Lavender reported that the SEND Support services are not visiting families in their homes or attending schools, with the exception of when the work can only be done in school or setting. All the parent and carer workshops were cancelled in March and April, but have been rescheduled and advertised through the Local Offer with a good response. It is always disappointing when families do not attend.

Sam explained that they hope to start to record these sessions, but a key part of the courses is the interaction that families have with each other. Early indications have been that the online chat was a reasonable substitute.

The sensory session has 50 people booked onto it.

Sam is commencing maternity leave shortly and another representative from her service will attend the next meeting.

10. Report from IASS

Nikki was able to inform the group that IASS are fully staffed and have been operational throughout the pandemic. They are starting some face to face work, but not in people's homes. Nikki reported that the Council for Disabled Children had been offering online training for staff, especially good for personal development. The SEND Law briefings had been brilliant.

In September Nikki led on a co-produced online event, 'Safe Return to School' with professionals and experts from the LA answering parents' questions and concerns. It was well attended.

A follow up was proposed, but there has not been a need identified.

Two of the Year Five seminars had been rescheduled from Spring 2020, providing an online information session for those parents in time for the decision making at the end of October.

Sessions for Spring 2021 have been scheduled – again on line, but hope to be running face to face whenever safe.

Nikki has funding to offer sessions for parents about the changes to the Local Authority.

IASS are working with NASS and the Local Offer to create a transition guidance for young people.

Nikki is hoping that students from the colleges will be involved in the design.

Nikki had funded some solution focussed training called 'Training Mats' for children and young people who are not able to express themselves verbally. This training was made available to colleagues in NASS and EHC as well. Feedback has been very positive.

11. Report from Voluntary Sector

Kathy and Nikki had been able to virtually attend the Youth Conference that Zoe had helped young people to prepare. They were answering live questions from students in schools around the county on a range of topical subjects. The IASS films were also shown.

12. Any Other Business

The International Day of Disabilities is being held virtually in Northamptonshire this year by the Borough Council on 3rd December. The IASS films are being used again, and the event will offer activities such as seated yoga and other opportunities.

13. Date of Next Meeting

to be confirmed.