

## Local Offer Governance Group

Held on 14 June 2021

**Present:** David Johnson, Rachel Akers, Nikki Taylor, Charlie Furniss, Lorraine Flute, Kathy Forsdyke,

**Apologies:** Liz Sagi and Hannah Glennon (Jo Bradley and Sam Lavender had been invited)

### 1. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

Short breaks statement: residential and non-residential:

Rachel reported that the SEND board were aware of a new document, still pending, and would bear the Local Offer in mind when it is published.

LO and disaggregation – Kathy reported that the Local Offer continued to be published on the old sovereign site and that there are website plans to move it to the North and West in the autumn. The Governance Group will be invited to be involved.

### 2. Report from the Local Offer

There had been no meeting during the spring term as Kathy had been on a COVID secondment. Kathy wanted it noting that Julia had managed the Local Offer on her own during this period, and had also attended Social Work Academy workshops to provide information.

Social media has been quiet during the last twelve months, but more things are opening up for children and young people and the activity now reflects it.

Recent feedback had been around the 'Child Trust Fund' as this must be starting to mature for the generation of young people it applied to. But there seems to be a gap in information about how those who do not have the mental capacity to manage their financial affairs are able to access this trust. It was accepted that it is likely to be raised again and it will be useful to create information in readiness as part of the post 16 offer. NPMG have just completed a series of legal workshops but this had not been included.

### 3. Report from Social Care

Neither Liz nor Jo were able to attend. Kathy was able to report that the arrangements for adult social services can be found on the Local Offer. Kathy and Liz were meeting regularly and from this had been able to publish the information about the Learning Disability Framework (Commissioning for a Good Life) that parents can view on the Local Offer. Kathy explained that a similar framework for autism services is expected.

It is hoped that the Northamptonshire Health and Care Directory will be able to publish the frameworks at some point in the future.

### 4. Report from Education

Charlie reported that schools are incredibly busy and that secondary schools are experiencing fluctuating attendance, but everyone returning to normal after using the recovery curriculum. Mock exams are being held for Y10. Primary schools are forward thinking for SATS testing next year. It has been hard and schools are yet to see impact of funding for catch up learning.

Senco's have expressed concerns around the back log for High Needs Funding. Those that

have been processed have only been backdated to March 2021.

Numerous students are waiting for special school places and this is causing planning issues for schools – recruitment, impact on budgets etc.

Schools report that delays in processing annual reviews – no changes being made.

Schools would appreciate a simplified staffing structure for North and West please - who to contact - and then can use in training Kathy will forward details onto Charlie.

Schools have been contacted by their EHC officers

Charlie asked if Gwyn would be offering the end of academic year report online. KF to ask GB if she wants to do it.

#### **5. Report from IASS**

Nikki reported that the IASS team are still working from home, but school visits have restarted. Nikki has ensured that the staff's wellbeing is supported as important for a team to support parents and families. Had training with the East Midlands IASS service. IASS are continuing to see parents about appeals. Mainly about school placements. There is a worry about the requests for special school placements.

Nikki has spoken to Hannah and Anthony about communication and parental frustrations. IASS are developing a range of information guides with video presentations.

A member of staff is taking early retirement.

IASS are now part of the Children Services' SEN and Disability Team.

#### **6. Report from Shooting Stars**

Lorraine reported that she offers regular meetings through Zoom, but attendance has dropped significantly. A risk assessment has been completed for a return to face to face meetings and they are waiting for approval. A new children's home is opening in Wellingborough and Shooting Stars are working with new team as part of the Young Inspectors programme.

Shooting Stars have been working on the Health Passports –

Lorraine explained that she is hoping to have two groups for each authority in the future, offering a more appropriate age range.

Shooting Stars would like information about sexual health – Lorraine will be going to workshops and expects that this will be a large piece of work. There is some information on the Local Offer that may be of use for the research.

#### **7. Report from NCFG**

David reported that the management committee has been meeting via Zoom and have organised workshops and seminars for parents.

NCFG needed a decision by Contact whether there will be two NCFG for each authority. It has been confirmed that there will be one as there is no capacity to create two forums. But they will have North and West vice chair and deal with admin. Deciding priorities for next year.

Reinstated face to face meetings, with three taken place, but difficult to get venues.

Parents report as being confused about Childrens Services, but NCFG have had a meeting with Ann Marie Dodds, Assistant Director for Education, NNC. Ann Marie is taking a county wide role for SEND

#### **8. Report from Health**

Rachel Akers said there is a huge increase in referrals from schools as expected. RSA also increasing but this has an impact on staffing and capacity.

Northamptonshire is an integrated care system this means health and social care planning to work in a joined role - The Children and Young People's transformation programme – chaired by Cathi Hadley (NCC) is at an early development stage. Public health issues such as well-being, obesity, neurodevelopment pathway – some local and some national priorities. Large consultation undertaken by CCG for health and wellbeing in Northants, there will be some restructuring of boards and governance arrangements

28 June 2021 – a regional event NHS England – SALT has been identified as a national area of weakness. Rachel is coordinating attendance and pleased to report that Ann Marie Dodds is attending. Trying to aim for county wide view and identifying gaps/good practice. Regional issues to be covered will be data sharing agreements, SEND Data dashboards 'how do we understand what is our current situation?' Trialling a data dashboard from CDC. Includes the outcomes/impacts.

Health Passports being commissioned for children and young people with SEND (not just those with LD). A design firm has been commissioned with feedback from a sample –NPGF and Local Offer shared the survey and feedback sessions from schools to create a Northants version.

There has been Tribunal training for NHS staff.

Rachel has been conducting a dip sample audit for quality of RSA advices. SALT positive with key learning feedback to team. Working with Anthony and Hannah to look at quality framework.

#### **9. Report from Specialist Support Services**

Kathy reported that Samantha from SSS is on maternity leave. There are two authority services for SSS and SIS are hosted by the North for the county. SSS are currently running their parent courses online which have proved to be popular.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

The group discussed the PHSE curriculum around sex education for young people with SEND and how it will cover peer on peer pressure and self-harming. Charlie explained that while all schools should teach PSHE, drawing on good practice, it is a non-statutory subject and each school/Trust will provide their own content to cover the curriculum.

PHSE sex education and well-being is an area of concern and part of the return to schools. - Nikki will share a presentation from governors training.

Shooting Stars investigating sex education and PHSE for young people with SEND.

Charlie also reported that as part of the CPD for schools' staff, Inclusion Network are creating a training package of "All teachers are SEND teachers". Currently in pilot stage, but is broadly similar to NASEN review. There is a turnover of Sencos in schools and it is hoped that this will help with the retention of staff as well as helping students and their teachers.