

**Local Offer
Governance Group**

Agenda

Date

16 November 2021

Present: Rachel Akers, (Designated Clinical Officer), Kim Stephenson, (NPFPG) Samantha Lavender, (SSS) Kathy Forsdyke (Local Offer) , Liz Sagi (NASS)

Apologies: Jo Bradley, (NCT) Nikki Taylor, (IASS) Lorraine Flute, (NCT) Charlie Furniss, (Inclusion Network) Zoe Robinson (NAYC)

1. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

- a. Short Breaks statement – agreed that there should be a holding statement on the What's On Page
- b. Web site – The Local Offer will remain on the NCC sovereign site for the foreseeable future
- c. Child Trust Fund – Julia constructing the Quick Guide to... and NPFPG and Liz Sagi would like to see draft document.

2. Selection of new Chair

David Johnson has retired from NPFPG after many years of voluntary work, and he sat as the Chair of the Local Offer Governance Group.

Rachel Akers volunteered to act as the Chair of the group. This was affirmed by the other members.

3. Local Offer Ofsted Story Board

Kathy explained that usually we update the Local Offer Story board at this time of year, but that with a change to the senior management and a changed Ofsted framework it may not be used in the future. Rachel agreed to ask at the SEND Accountability Board what the system wide approach is likely to be.

4. Feedback to the Local Offer

Kathy reported that the Local Offer had published in the You Said, We Did section information about accessible schools and that the Local Offer had contributed to the 2nd What Next /Post 16 event organised by Daventry Hill School.

At a recent EHC parent consultation event, parents had reported that they had found the Local Offer website a positive resource.

5. Report from Services

- a. Kathy reported on the current management structure for SEND and that Sophia McClymont was acting as interim Service Manager for the North. Both the North and West EHC Teams were actively recruiting EHC Case Workers.
- b. Liz reported that NASS arrangements are now settled after the disaggregation and restructuring. She is monitoring and tracking 14 teams who are working with children and young people. She is identifying good areas and offering support and guidance to others.

There is now an earlier referral system in place and the teams have ten days from the point of referral to making an initial contact with the family.

The DCT refer in a timely fashion at age of 16 so that a conversation can start, and a relationship established.

The Adult transition workers are making an impact in the special schools and colleges where they are working. They are aiming to attend all Year 11 annual reviews in special schools for children not already known to social care and are advising for a referral to adult social care.

Feedback from families and schools is very positive.

Trying to improve the external referral pathway using the Annual Reviews.

- c. Rachel reported that the annual health checks for young people (with a learning disability) is going to be included on the CCG Action Plan.

The Integrated Care Partnership (and CYP Transformation Board) will be live in April 2022 and the CCG will cease to be at the point. Rachel explained the pillar system (complex needs, health minds etc) and that SEND sits underneath them all as children with SEND may fit into any of the pillars. There has been a good commitment from social care and health and those in the Local Authority.

Rachel suggested that the Local Offer Governance Group could consider inviting other representatives from therapists.

Transitions groups (CTPLD) are working together to ensure that preparation starts as early as possible; with advice as needed.

Northamptonshire has signed up to a regional project (Dec 21 to March 22) with Council Disabled Children using indicators to measure outcomes.

- d. Kim was welcomed to the group as the new representative from Northamptonshire Parent Forum Group. Kim explained that the group has been through a lot of changes recently and now need to recruit new members.

All enquiries need to go through the 'enquiries@NPPFG.co.uk' account. They have a paid administrator who is disseminating incoming e-mails. Kim was pleased to report that the training and support for representatives is being brought back from the national support.

The group offered support to NPPFG in whatever they thought helpful.

- e. Sam was able to represent the SSS service in the West and reported that they are continuing the parent/carer workshops remotely at the moment which has meant a good turnout but still have around 50% attendance only. They have been working with the NHS Early Intervention Team who, it is believed, are going to be working in schools. The scheme/team is due to start in April 2022 when the newly recruited Team Leaders start. This is one of the pillars that Rachel spoke about
In terms of casework, they are seriously understaffed. They have four new workers starting in the next month. Practitioners normally hold a very large caseload of (around 35-40 cases) but have, for the first time ever, people with 55-60 cases which is unsustainable. The new starters will make a difference and should be properly up and running, with their own caseload at the start of the new year. They are coping, and managing without a waiting list

Sam suggested getting an SSS representative from the North as she now only

represents the West. Sam suggested contacting Lisa Robinson, Louise Jeffries, Pauline Kirby and Tracy Borg and Imtiaz the Service Manager now.

- f. Charlie from Inclusion Network was unable to join us. Her role has been changed as the Inclusion Network (Teaching School) arrangements have been moved to Brook Weston Trust who offer the Hub for Northamptonshire. The Local Offer needs to provide more information.

6. Any Other Business

- a. Rachel asked that we review the Local Offer Governance Group Terms of Reference and membership at the next meeting. The TOR will be circulated with these notes.
- b. The DCYPDG is no longer working (there were plans to change it before the pandemic): a Send Accountability Board has been established – with its second meeting due next month. It will ensure that the Local Area is ready for Inspection and will set a SEND strategy for the area. Reference to the DCYPDG will be removed from the Local Offer.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

This will be scheduled for the Spring Term.