

Local Offer Governance Group

29 June 2020

Location Via Zoom

3.00pm to 4.30pm

(The Spring term meeting had been cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak and the national lockdown.)

Present: David Johnson,(NCFG and current chair) Kathy Forsdyke, (Local Offer), Charlie Furniss (Fairfields School- Inclusion) Lorraine Flute (Shooting Stars Participation Worker), Liz Sagi (18 to 25 Disabilities team), Joanne Bradley (Disabled Children's Team) Zoe Robinson (NAYC) Nikki Taylor (IASS) Rachel Akers (DCO NHS)

Introductions: Charlie was welcomed to her first Local Offer governance group.

Apologies: Sam Lavender (SSS) who is replacing Jane Smith as a representative from Specialist Support Services.

1. Matters Arising From the Last Meeting

- a. Article in SNIX about PA job site
This had been published in SNIX Autumn edition
- b. Post 16 opportunities (attached)
This had been seen by Childrens Commissioning and Shooting Stars.
Liz will provide a link to the adult LD commissioning for an update of services
- c. Short Breaks Statement 2019 (JB)
It was explained to the group that Kathy had removed the 4 year old version from the Local Offer as it was very out of date. But that this means the Local Offer is no longer compliant with the Code of Practice. Jo explained that Kathi Hadley had asked for some changes to be made would find out what has happened.
- d. CCG plans to bring to the attention of the LA those children who are likely to need an EHC plan
Rachel explained that she is working on a formal system to extend the existing practice of the CCG to advise the LA about preschool children with SEND. This has been delayed due to the pandemic.
- e. Learning Disability annual review used in the EHC Annual Review
Progression with this has also been delayed by the pandemic. Rachel is confident that GP's are currently offering it to young people with a learning disability.
- f. Response from GB about disaggregation of NCC and Local Offer
Kathy shared Gwyn's response to the letter sent by the Governance Group in November.

2. Local Offer Ofsted Story Board -

Uploaded to SharePoint document management system - review again in October 2020

3. Coronavirus outbreak

NPFG had asked The Local Offer to share information in a form that was more accessible than the NCC website. A dedicated page has been created, setting out information and support.

At the beginning of the pandemic, lots of lists and links were being shared, which was overwhelming. The Local Offer produced a useful document 'Lockdown Resources' which can be found on the web page. It had been well received by families.

At the time of the meeting, there had been no news about extending the regulations regarding the EHC process. But the announcement came through at the end of the day extending the period until the end of July.

The DFE have asked the LA to contact every family whose child has a plan. This is currently being undertaken by the Education Service staff.

IASS have been receiving queries from parents about not being involved in school risk assessments for their children. IASS are advising parents that if they disagree with the school to contact the LA. One school had been brought to the attention of the SLT by IASS for this.

4. Feedback to the Local Offer (attached)

An update of feedback to the Local Offer 'you said, we did' was shared to the group. (See attached)

Kathy explained that the web site monitoring has shown a sharp spike during January with no obvious explanation.

Social media: this continues to be successful with 2065 Facebook followers, 1053 Twitter followers and our newest social media, Instagram has 348 followers.

5. Report from Education

Charlie explained that the next Inclusion News would be including some advice for school staff and Senco's about supporting young people back to education in a Return to School Recovery. Kathy offered to share this on Twitter as this has more professional followers.

Members of the group expressed offers to get involved, including Shooting Stars and IASS.

The Educational Psychologists have created a transitions document that has been included in the summer edition of SNIX. Kathy will send it to Charlie

6. Report from Health

Rachel reported that the health services are now on recovery and restoration planning. Physical Out-patient appointments are increasing, while continuing to offer virtual appointments when appropriate. All visitors to any NHS Site (GP's, clinics) are being asked to wear a face covering. Everyone is being phoned first to explain the process and whether any adjustments need to be made.

Each service is looking at the individual child's needs.

NGH are planning on reopening the Child Development Centre at the beginning of July with a different model of working.

Attendance for healthcare is likely to be different for some time.

7. Report from Social Care (JB and LS)

Jo reported that the DCT have been working differently during the pandemic. There

has been an increased need for support for children while they are not in school. Many of the children are shielding. Looking to support children with agencies, the CCG and flexible use of the direct payments.

The residential short breaks have done an outstanding job in keeping available for those children.

Non-residential breaks have been suspended, but Action for Children have been supporting their regular attendees online.

Liz reported that as part of the 18 - 25 Disabilities team their business as usual ceased with the emergency response in March 2020, but they continued to engage with case work.

Two new members of staff have been recruited to work with those students in schools not known to the DCT. Planning on setting up sessions with the CTPLD. (Rachel asked to be informed when these take place).

All staff were deployed to the COVID response. Working from 8 am to 8 pm, seven days a week. They completed 7,500 risk assessments and rated them.

There has been a significant amount of stress.

The brokerage and commissioning hub, with a joint effort with the CCG ensured that those who needed services received something. Day centres provided virtual services where ever possible.

Relaxation started on 2nd May and the provider market is now recovering.

The DCT supported the 18 to 25 Team. 45 cases were allocated during the pandemic.

The restoration phase has now begun as COVID duties are being scaled down.

The Future Northants programme is now planning the transformation of adult social services as it splits into two new authorities and it is likely to be working this way by the autumn..

8. Report from Specialist Support Services (SL)

Sam was unable to attend the meeting. Kathy reported that SSS have been offering a service online and over the phone. Their parental courses had all been suspended.

9. Report from IASS (NT)

Nikki reported that IASS have moved back into LSE within School Improvement.

IASS staff have all been working from home, running their helpline as normal.

A lot of Tribunal work is coming through. A new officer, Eloise Heneghan started on 1st April coming from another IASS. She is working with a group of young people and has met up with Shooting Stars. Her training and experience meant that she was able to continue to support parents promptly.

10. Report from Shooting Stars

Lorraine reported that the group has been meeting weekly on Zoom and has been an opportunity for them to socialise online and there has been less emphasis on working for the LA.

Lorraine invited anyone to make contact if they have anything for discussion.

11. Report from Volunteer Sector (ZR)

Zoe has been on furlough during the pandemic, but has had some time at work.

NAYC have been putting resources online.

12. Report From NPFG (DJ)

David reported that parents are concerned about the return to school.

NPFG are offering a weekly meeting on line for parents.

David said that parents have expressed appreciation for the support they have had from services for their children.

13. Any Other Business

Rachel reported that at a recent interview with the Dept for Education and Lead Safeguarding about the local area Northamptonshire were able to demonstrate lots of collaboration work and positive multi-disciplinary work that has blossomed during the pandemic.

The interview went really well and Rachel and Gwyn were able to answer positively and offer constructive and the honest relationships.

The themes from the local area will be published by the DFE.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Autumn term 2020. To be confirmed.