

Local Offer Governance Group held on 17th July 2017

Location Northants County Council, One Angel Square Room 116 (first floor)

Time 12.00 to 13.30

Present

Kathy Forsdyke,(Local Offer) Nikki Taylor, Katie Thompson, Amanda Sweet and Jo Motherfield (Transitions Team) , David Johnson, (NPFPG) Shannon (YP) Dan Newbolt,(DCT) Jane Smith, SSSS, Lorraine Flute (Shooting Stars) Thomas,(Shooting Stars Vice Chair)

Apologies

Sandra Mole, Heidi Redmond, Zoe Robinson

Matters Arising From the Last Meeting

- Viewpoint -a new survey is being developed for children and young people with an EHC plan. This has been looked at by Northgate students and Shooting Stars. Students from East Hunsbury have also looked at it, and there will be amendments made following the feedback from the students.
The Local Offer survey remains live. No marketing campaign yet and this needs to be actioned over the next year.

Ofsted results

The inspection of May 2017 report had been shared with the minutes of the meeting. Kathy asked for comments about how to improve local knowledge of the Local Offer site for families. It was agreed that it was most likely small, mainstream schools that hadn't raised the awareness for their families. Suggestions to raise knowledge and understanding for parents and young people included

- Posters and pictures to be available
- Specialist Support Services staff already discuss the Local Offer with parents and would like access to leaflets to take: Jane agreed that they need to re-mention the Local Offer with parents as follow up.
- DCT staff also discuss the Local Offer with parents too and would value leaflets too.
- NPFPG have had reports that some parents find it difficult to look for abbreviations and specialist wording. Kathy asked that they be advised to contact the Local Offer to get specific help and advice in future.
- Senco's in mainstream schools. – Inclusion network meetings. Kathy has attended network meetings to talk to Senco's about the Local offer in the last year, and will ask to repeat the process with the teaching schools.
- Kathy will attend any parent meeting that she is invited to. David reported that parents value this.
- Professional meetings – IASS: Nikki felt that her team use the Local Offer more since the team meeting with the Local Offer
- Rachel reported that at a recent 0 – 19 service meeting within health care Health Visitors had a general awareness of the Local Offer (Kathy had previously presented to health

visitors) but school nurses were not so aware until Rachel updated them. Louisa Russell can be contacted to see if the nurses would like more information.

- The transition team hold events for students in special schools in Year 9 and this would be a good opportunity to raise awareness with this age range. The Local Offer would like to attend.
- Kathy will speak to Liz Saqi and ask to come to a transitions team meeting.
- Kathy is a regular speaker to the Social Work Academy
- Rachel proposed that we define how many schools already know and then make contact with each and every one and offer posters and leaflets, meetings and visits. It was proposed that the Local Offer team make a plan to visit schools and try and engage with students when appropriate to raise awareness in mainstream schools and get a wider schools engagement.
New schools need to have a routine contact.
- Thomas invited Kathy to come to Shooting Stars again and talk about the Local Offer.

Rachel reported that Ofsted made very positive comments about the Local Offer in their feedback at the time of the inspection, although the final report only states a very simple

The local offer is easily accessible to stakeholders. It is comprehensive, informative and straightforward to navigate, and has an active social media profile. Ofsted May 2017

Thomas said that the inspectors asked the Shooting Stars about the Local Offer when they went to visit them and they were able to tell them that they could find places to go and things to do on it.

Local Offer Ofsted Story Board

It was agreed to review the Local Offer story board at the April 2018 meeting as using story boards created a consistent style for the inspection and helped with partnership working across the different agencies. .

Feedback to the Local Offer survey results

The results of the survey created by the governance group for the 2020 event were discussed. The report had been distributed with the minutes and a summary report created by Kathy. It would have been more useful to have had a higher response rate (62). The survey had been shared on the Local Offer, through social media, at the event, through Informer and other staff communication tools. Only one young person completed (but the survey was not designed for young people or targeted at them specifically). A doctor had completed the survey and invited the Local Offer to come and talk to their team. Kathy waiting to hear from them.

One person commented that they wished that SNIX had a wider distribution rather than just to those cherry picked by the Local Offer. However, in fact, anyone who wishes to have a copy can register to get one.

Summer Sensation 2017

Thomas reported that the Shooting Stars had enjoyed taking part in the Summer Sensation and attending the event as volunteer helpers. They suggest it takes place every year and gave it 10/10. The students at the college also ran a “cool café” and the Y Not Arts performed their end of year show at the event. Next time they would like to have the theatre not a drama studio

SSS volunteered to hold workshops which included the very popular singing and signing.

Over 730 people attended the event, with over 70 different providers offering a selection of activities and fun. Parents left feedback that indicated they all enjoyed the event, the venue was suitable and that they had found new groups and activities to go to.

Report from Education

Heidi was not able to report.

Report from Health

Rachel reported that following the inspection the health authority are agreeing improvements, such as the health advice in EHC plans and have set up a training sessions set up for EHC team. Transitions into adult services from paediatrics remains a challenge – every GP practice will have a local approach. There is a piece of work looking at transitions from children's mental health into adult mental health

Kathy asked if there was any news on the Autism pathway. A discussion took place as to whether ASD is a mental health or learning issue and not a physical one. It is likely this will be a joint commissioning need at a strategic level. The diagnosis part of the autism pathway is perhaps the simplest part – and then the impact as to whether their needs can be met. Settings vary immensely on what they can offer with or without a diagnosis.

Health will be reporting to the DCYPDG tomorrow.

Report from Social Care

Transitions have a panel with partners to make arrangements for students with ASD which includes social care colleagues as well as health care staff. Transitions team are looking at their referrals – short term team and long term teams – and what ways users can gain access to the service. They no longer have dedicated staff for specific schools. Liz Saqi is now leading the team.

Dan reported that the Disabled Children's Team (DCT) needs to be involved with joint commissioning for ASD support. Everlasting issues with diagnosis and meeting thresholds. Judgements have to be made whether there is a social care need or a disability. Regular discussions are held with DCT and safeguarding teams. And appropriate advice offered. Dan reported that the DCT is close to a record number on their case load. It is hoped that use of the Local Offer can impact on finding help. There are plans to synchronise EHC plans and social care plans. Meetings with senior manager and safeguarding manager.

Specialist Support Services SEND

The review of service last year incorporated AOT, Portage, EHDC, with evidence of a need not a diagnosis to gain access to the support services.

The current waiting list is nearly 18 months for ASD diagnosis with the health service which could leave families a long time without support. It was noted that the ability to self-refer to SSSS is valued by families.

There are differing levels of support in SSS including phones, face to face, school and home support. SSSS also offer early help assessments (EHA) and wider family needs and where school EHA is not

working especially where children are in more than one school. Different levels of intervention can be given

Any Other Business

- Kathy is to present the annual report of the Local Offer to DCYPDG due by end of August. It was agreed that Kathy will distribute a draft document to the governance group to make comment on prior to presenting to the DCYPDG.
- Short Breaks survey from NPFG going live – IASS and Local Offer will share. David reported that the parent groups has funded a survey monkey and that they aim to get replies in excess of 100 to offer a meaningful analysis

Date of Next Meeting - to be arranged in the autumn term.