

**Children and Young People with Disabilities and Learning Difficulties
Partnership Forum (CYPwDL)**

14 January 2013, 6.00pm – Terrace Room, York House, Twickenham

1. Apologies and Introductions

Attendees: Councillor Chappell, Councillor Eady, Jan Tellick (Threewings Trust), Steffani-Jade McDonagh (Threewings Trust), Paul Leonard (Strathmore School), Keith Tysoe (LBRuT), Michelle Williams (LBRuT), Kieran Travers (LBRuT), Stewart Jones (LBRuT), Ian Hendy (RPCAG), Kevin Sears (RPCAG).

Parent Observers: Paul Hampartsoumian.

Apologies: Councillor Allen.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 October 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign them subject to the following amendment:

- (i) That the following be included at the end of item 6:
was being considered and hopefully implemented.

Matters Arising

It was agreed that there were no matters arising from the last meeting.

3. Children and Families Bill Update

The SEN Services Manager introduced the item and explained that a meeting of Sub-Group representatives had been held earlier that day, led by Simon James. The Select Committee responsible for scrutinising the Bill had concluded their work and had recommended including more extensive reforms than were put forward in the Bill. The meeting of the Sub-Groups also heard that drastic reforms were expected meaning significant changes to the both the Bill and Code of Practice, and that these changes were expected later in the year, although a specific date could not be confirmed at this point.

The forum were informed that although Richmond was being pro-active, that guidance was still being waited on from central government, and that although the Select Committee were looking at the Bill, that it was not known when the Bill would be passed through Parliament.

The forum were also informed that pilots had been extended by 18 months and that this was delaying the processing of the Bill. It was also pointed out that would be an opportunity to make changes, that the new funding arrangements resulting from the Bill would allow more control over allocation of funding for children and young people with special needs.

It was RESOLVED:

That Mr Jones would send the findings of the Select Committee to Faye Simpson for circulation to the Forum once these were available.

4. Update from Richmond Parents and Carers Action Group

Joint Chair of RPCAG, Barry Woodward, informed the forum that the group had been pro-actively involved in Richmond's work on the Children and Families Bill, particularly Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP), the assessment process and individual budgets. Karl Burgess had attended a previous meeting to explain the transitions process and how young people would benefit from support being given up to the age of 25. Michelle Williams would be attending the next meeting of the group to discuss direct payments, and RPCAG would be able to provide the forum with an update on direct payments at the next meeting.

Councillor Percival informed the forum that a transition meeting was due to be held on 26th March 2013 at the Crossway Centre (306 Richmond Rd Twickenham, TW1 2PD), and that members of the forum and parents were encouraged to attend.

It was Resolved:

That Ms Tellick of the Threewings Trust would circulate invitations to the transition meeting.

5. Any Other Business

Transport

Paul Leonard informed the forum that positive feedback had been received from parents regarding transport escorts. Current escorts were retained as the working group report had found this to be an important issue as they know the children, young people and parents who use the transport service, and that parents were happy with the service.

The point was made that whilst there were still some issues with the transport service these were generally being resolved quickly. It was hoped that there could be training for drivers, so that they are better able to understand the needs of the children and young people using the service.

The forum were informed that another meeting would be arranged with the service, and that an update will be given at the next meeting of the CYPWDL.

Strathmore

The Lead Inspector for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion, Keith Tysoe, updated the Forum on plans for SEN school provision. He explained that pupil numbers at Strathmore school had increased from 27 to 53 and maintaining this site as the only school for children and young people with SEN was unsustainable. It was felt that although the standards of teaching remained

good the Strathmore School site was too small and crucially had too little outside space. The proposals were for new SEN provisions at Russell School, Greycourt School and the new Richard Reynolds School. The forum were informed that prior to development of the site, a resident's meeting would be planned to discuss the impact on traffic, the design of the new buildings and other non-educational aspects of the new proposals. Officers were currently considering the educational aspect of the new proposals. Further information was available on the SEN consultation web page.

It was RESOLVED:

1. That Keith Tysoe would send the consultation documents to Faye Simpson to circulate to the Forum.

6. Terms of Reference Review

Following a discussion on changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CYPWDL, members of the forum suggested that the ToR should include the following:

- The ages of children and young people covered by the terms of the forum due to recent changes in the age profile of those entitled to funding.
- More detail on how minutes are to be published and made available to members of the forum and the public.
- What information will be reported by the forum and to whom.

An update to make mention of the families of children and young people with disabilities and that both transitions and respite care should be referred to.

Following the discussion it was also suggested that:

- The forum should compile an annual note of its main concerns to be completed before the Trust Board in December/January each year.
- An updated list of the forum's membership should be made available, including each members representation on the forum and the voting rights of each member. It was also suggested that membership should include a representative from Clarendon School.
- It was also agreed that the forum should change its name to represent the age profile of the children and young people covered by the terms of the forum.
- It may be possible for minutes and published meeting dates and papers of the forum could be included with the council's other public meetings for ease of access to information by members of the public.

It was RESOLVED:

That the name of the forum be changed with immediate effect from Children with Disabilities and Learning Disabilities (CWDLD) to Children and Young People with Disabilities and Learning Disabilities (CYPWDL D).

That Michelle Williams would include an item on the next Children and Young People's Trust Board that they would receive an annual briefing of the work of the CYPWDL D.

That any comments and suggestions on changes to the ToR be emailed to Faye Simpson, Democratic Services Officer and:

That the updated Terms of Reference be brought to the next meeting.

That the Clerk would investigate the possibility of moving the CYPWDL D page to the Committees section of the council's website.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 22 April 2013.

It was also agreed that the Clerk would bring along a list of suggested dates for future meetings to the next meeting.