

Children With Disabilities and Learning Difficulties Partnership Forum minutes

Tuesday 24 May 2011 – 6.45pm

York House, Twickenham

ITEM		ACTION
1.	Apologies & Introductions	
	<p>Apologies: Cllr Piers Allen; Simon James; Sue Ritson; Rachel Turner; Michelle Williams; Anne-Marie Asgari; Paul Leonard; Stella Mabb; Anne Breaks.</p> <p>Attendees: Cllr Christine Percival, Cllr Susan Chappell; Cllr Malcolm Eady; Mark Gilbert Colin Herrick, John Doherty, Stewart Jones, Joanne Kemp; Becky Powell, Keith Tysoe, Jan Tellick</p> <p>Mary Mullix: left replaced by Anne Breaks</p>	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting & Matters Arising	
	<p>Minutes of the last meeting agreed and signed.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u> SEN Review update – Agenda item Aiming High update – Agenda Item Update from RPCAG</p>	
3.	SEN Review update and SEN Green Paper	
	<p>Colin Herrick (CH) gave feedback on progress of the <u>SEN Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Phase 1</u> • Holy Trinity - completed • East Sheen – completed receiving pupils in May 2011 • <u>Phase 2</u> - September 2011 • Grey Court/Christ's - on track to complete 31 August 2011 • <u>Phase 3</u> - September 2012 • Stanley Primary School – delay by three to four months, as contract is complex. There could be an issue regarding intake for September 2012 • Hampton Academy - there has been slippage, due to planning issues regarding trees. <p><u>SEN and Disabilities Green Paper</u> CH updated the group on this item (“SEN and Disabilities Green Paper” was circulated prior to the meeting). CH highlighted the weakness of the current system and the benefits of the proposed changes. CH identified that the proposal was not controversial and good overall.</p> <p>Key aspects:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will have a greater role in the process and control. • Statements will be replaced with a single process assessment. • Extension up to 25 years of age (Group acknowledged this change positively as the current transition process is lacking. • Focus on children with more significant needs, which means that there will be a reduction of children with special needs. • Improving Teacher Training – increasing knowledge regarding special needs (KT agreed that his team could work in partnership with parents on this). • Greater independence in assessment process. • Inclusion of Voluntary groups in offering a package of support to parents. <p>KT advised that the proposal includes a requirement to access mediation before appeal. CH stated that under these proposals there will be greater choice for parents, a creation of different types of special schools for example; Free/Academy schools. Discussion on this issue took place and there were concerns that state schools may suffer financially, Cllr Percival gave an example of how this initiative can work in practice. CH thought that having national criteria was a good idea as there is nothing consistent currently.</p> <p><u>Time Frame:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper – Autumn 2011-09-13 • Legislate - 2012 <p><u>Action for SEN Task Group</u> Issue to take this forward and include in Terms of Reference Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee 8 February 2012</p>	
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<p>4.</p>	<p>Aiming High</p> <p>“Aiming High” Feedback from Becky Powell, (BP) “Aiming High Programme and Short Breaks” - May 2011 Report circulated prior to meeting.</p> <p>Report shows increase in short breaks on the Autistic Spectrum, Complex Health Needs and in the number of hours and overnight breaks children have received in all areas.</p> <p>Note: The data for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008/9 is not consistent • 2009/10 and 2010/11 is consistent <p>Feedback is positive and the report shows that short breaks are valued by families.</p>	<p>BP to update at next meeting</p>
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	<p>In 2011-12 there will no longer be an Aiming High project; (although the Council will continue to use this name) however the government does want to provide short breaks to families of disabled children through the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). The grant is not ring-fenced and Richmond Council has allocated £567,000 for these breaks. Jude Bowler will be working on the EIG and the whole of the commissioning service. Children's Services will prepare one paper for people/organisations to place bids and Aiming High will be part of this. The contract offered, will be for two years rather than one, this offers more security for voluntary groups, in terms of the time it takes to set up and wind down projects.</p> <p>The strategic needs assessment of short breaks and the Young people's consultation in June 2011, will inform what the service will commission in September.</p> <p>Clr Eady asked for further information regarding Aiming High Capital Money, BP and KT gave an overview of progress. BP to update group at next meeting regarding Croft Centre works.</p>	<p>BP to update at next meeting</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update & Feedback from Richmond Parents Carers Action Group</p>	
	<p>RPCAG feedback:</p> <p>The group have been supporting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Me too and Co. offering Bereavement Counselling • Richmond Aid running workshops for mothers to help them return to work. The workshop included; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping participants articulate their needs regarding flexibly working due to care issues • advice on writing a CV • how to access benefits and clarifying participant's rights. <p>This was successful and the group intend to run this again in-line with information day</p> <p>Clr Percival agreed that this was a very good initiative</p> <p>The group are aiming to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit on more panels. • Offer alternative Therapies <p>KT arranged for the group to present to SENCO's, this was positive and they were able to reach parents and secondary schools. This identified a need to revise literature for secondary schools.</p> <p>KT can assist in arranging delivery of literature to secondary schools.</p> <p>Other activities:</p>	<p>KT</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on “Treats for parents” brochure • Richmond Aid – published a magazine article • GP’s invited Jude Bowler to a focus meeting <p>Discussion on the supplier situation between Hounslow and Richmond ensued. It was determined that under the new provision secondary schools will be able to appoint Speech and Language therapists themselves. Me too and Co. can help and suggested “Girls Connect” a service for teenage girls across the Autistic Spectrum.</p> <p>RPCAG to update next meeting</p>	RPCAG
6.	Any Other Business	
	<p>BP mentioned the “Strategic Plan for Disabled Children’s” Service to link in with “Children’s Plan”. Draft report will be July, Final report September 2011.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 8.30pm</p>	
7.	Date of Next Meeting	
	Wednesday 5 October at 6.30pm, Council Chamber, York House, Twickenham	
	Signed	
	Date	