

SEND STRATEGY STEERING GROUP (VIRTUAL) 18 MAY 2021



Attendees:

Ming Zhang (MZ) Chair	Service Director, Education, Participation & Skills	PCC
Claire Paddon (CP) Co-Chair	Parent Rep	Plymouth Parent Carer Voice
Jo Siney (JS)	Head of SEND	PCC
Tara Vassallo (TV)	Parent Rep	Plymouth Parent Carer Voice
Rob Hunter	Post 16 Rep	City College
Nicolle Gallagher (NG)	SEND Youth Forum, Youth Worker	PCC
Bob Burton (BB)	Senior Parent Support Co-ordinator, PIASS	PCC
Janet Greaves Stocker (JGS)	Commissioning Officer	PCC
Elizabeth Knight (EK)	Early Years Rep	Lark Children's Centre
Clare Hetherington (CH)	Principal Educational Psychologist	PCC
Denise Edgecombe (DE)	Clinical Education lead for Health Visiting and School Nursing	Livewell, South West
Jayne Blood (JBL)	CAMHS, Service Manager	Livewell, South West
Elizabeth Knight (EK)	Early Years Rep	Lark Children's Centre
Heidi Price (HP)	Headteacher, Primary Rep	Yealmpstone Farm Primary School
Sara Kirkup (SK)	Children's Professional Lead	Livewell, South West
Penny Whitell (PW)	Service Manager, SEND	PCC
Blanche Gibson (BG)	0-25 SEND Team Manager	PCC
Tim Tod (TT)	CEO	Friends & Families
Fiona Gordon (FG)	Commissioning Officer	PCC
Emily Street (ES)	Commissioning Manager	New Devon CCG
Sue Syers (SS)	DCO/Nurse Consultant, Child Development Centre	PHNT
Frank O Friel	Care Group Manager	PHNT
Nadia Donald (ND)	Minute Taker	PCC

Presenting:

Leo Marshall	0-25 Caseworker	PCC
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Apologies:

George Osborne	Young person rep	Youth Ascends
Siobhan Wallace (SW)	Head of Service, Children, Young People & Families	PCC
Tracy Clasby (TC)	Locality Manager	Livewell, South West
Andrea Hemmens (AH)	SHAP Representative, Headteacher	Woodlands
Karen Dorow (KD)	Director of Faculty, City College Plymouth	Post 16 Provider
Hannah Daw (HD)	Performance Advisor	PCC
Jim Barnicott (JB)	Leadership Associate, SEND	PCC
Tracy Tucker (TT)	Childrens Centre Rep	Barnardo's
Ruth White (RW)	Designated Nurse – LAC	New Devon CCG

Item	Notes	Action
1.	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES	
	As above. Co-chairing has been re-introduced for these meetings for MZ and CP. Welcome to TT who has now joined these meetings.	
2.	MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING & ACTIONS ARISING	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary school rep – No rep was identified at PLP meeting. To be discussed again at their next meeting at the end of May. Lessons learnt from food parcels - JS reported that the key lesson learnt is communication around flexibilities for young people with SEND, which can be applied to any other emerging issues. The benefit of regular conversations with PPCV meant we were alerted to this early and we are committed to continuing this moving forward. Training in schools for hidden disabilities - CP/JB actioned this – work in progress. Local Offer Content – JS proposes that she emails all representatives with a set of questions to gain assurance of engagement with the Local Offer. We can then think together over challenges and promotion, ideas to strengthen and improve embedding. This will create smart tracking together. JSG to take this as an action and combine with Local Offer review. 	<p>Carried forward</p> <p>JGS to look at as part of Local Offer Review</p>
3.	PPCV UPDATE	
	Following the SEND Parent conference there were several outcomes that we need to embed into the SEND Strategy.	

	<p>Employability & Independence There is a need to ensure that our input meets the needs and outcomes of children and young people. JS to review against Preparing for Adulthood work plan and highlight opportunities for employment and independent living skills to ensure that our priorities are correct.</p> <p>Accessible Play Equipment in Parks Logging of accessible play equipment across Plymouth parks and where this is available. PW to obtain name of contact who she liaised with regarding the SEND Conference. Noted that they would welcome views from PPCV.</p> <p>City Centre Access (activities and shops) Small project being set up to look at places where young people can use hearing loops and navigate independently. This will include a review of how accessible Plymouth town centre really is. It was felt that this would be relevant under the support for parents of disabled children petal, but noted that it cuts across all themes.</p> <p>Carers' Access to local community activities How can we support families with this and keep costs down. Can we create a catalogue of places which allow carers free entry? This would form part of the short break statement review. JGS noted the need to maximise use of existing groups such as Pisces for swimming and use of the disability card.</p> <p>PW took the opportunity to thank PPCV for their hard work with the conference in such challenging times. We have received positive feedback from councillors and external agencies. MZ echoed this and thanked PPCV on behalf of this group.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>PW</p> <p>JGS/PPCV to discuss further</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>YOUTH ASCENDS</p> <p>NG updated that the group have been working with LivewellSW and Plymouth Safeguarding Board to review the 10 wishes document. It was concluded that they were still relevant and Youth Ascends have created a video to launch this. This will be launched with the booklet at the Bright Futures event.</p> <p>The group reviewed the video and felt it was a really powerful and clear piece of work.</p> <p>SK reported that Livewell are passionate on delivering the 10 wishes on conjunction with Youth Ascends. Discussed using a self-assessment tool to measure.</p> <p>JS reported that this group have a role to play on behalf of young people to share this with our sectors and raise awareness. Need to consider additional needs for SEND at key points, such as Year 9 Annual Reviews. Need to create check in with young peoples lived experiences on reflecting the 10 wishes.</p>	

<p>5.</p>	<p>IASS UPDATE</p> <p>PIAS have a new manager joining end of June.</p> <p>In terms of complaint with minimum standards, good progress has been made. Outstanding area is Standard 1.2 – Capacity & Provision. In order to address this work continues with Devon CCG to confirm the joint specification for SENDIAS which will cover Plymouth/Torbay/Devon. This work includes funding arrangements.</p> <p>PIAS website refresh is underway to bring it up to date and with improved accessibility.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>STRATEGIC THEME: ASSESSMENT & PLANNING FOR SEND</p> <p>PW reminded that this is an important strand of the strategic plan and is key to improving the experience for young people and their families, which is at the heart of this. In September 2021 we agreed our priorities for 2020/21. We have had to work differently this year due to Covid, yet our priorities have remained the same. The pandemic has created challenge, but also opportunities. LM joined the meeting to present the data we have measured:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Children and young people with EHCPs – broken down by primary need types • Volume of pupils with EHCP/SEN Support in schools – broken down by primary and secondary phase • Volume of new EHCP requests – particularly at transition points • Timeliness of issuing new EHCPs – within statutory timescales • Volume of SEND pupils who are missing a school education <p>What are we worried about?</p> <p>Almost a third of the requests to carry out an EHC Needs Assessment in Plymouth since September 2020 are for children within the early years. Further analysis of the Early Years SEND cohort is planned to understand the primary needs impacting upon requests for support and Early Years provision available within the City. From January 2021 –April 2021 there were 45 requests from Early Years. Need to look at how many were accepted/declined and the impact on Early Years Services broken down into year groups.</p> <p>TV asked how many previous refusals then convert to yes to assess. BG updated that termly meetings are held to look at trends coming through SMAP panel.</p> <p>Discussion regarding the impact on children missing out on early years settings throughout the pandemic. Discussed what trends we want to pick out as a COVID related action. JS informed that the DFE are highlighting impact of COVID within the Code of Practice. CH added that there have been a number of parental requests due to concerns regarding missing school. Those young people that were borderline and SEN Support we are now seeing requests for.</p>	

Parents need to be reassured to allow time to see how this progresses whilst we support young people through this situation.

A positive over the past year has been the link up of services such as SEND & IAWS, who have joined up well and aligned services to pre-empt and supported when an EHCP is being considered. This will be a key part of the feedback next year.

Missing Education & EHE

Missing education and EHE is a priority for monitoring. SEND exclusions within mainstream and specials schools to form part of data gathering. MZ suggested benchmarking against other LA's to see if they have experienced a similar surge. HD is already looking at repeated exclusions as part of data set. Fixed term exclusions are used for SEND young people. There has been a high increase in SEN Support and reduced timetables since September 2020. There is project work taking place around disagreement resolution and the link between tribunals and refusal to access. Holly Bridges is following up with families to discuss decisions and to ensure that parents feel confident in the support received from mainstream.

Annual Reviews

Our objective is to ensure that children and families views are captured though this process. Discussed linking with the 10 wishes document to ensure we are meeting needs and outcomes. There has been a significant increase in Annual Review Officer posts which has had a positive impact on the process.

Due to time constraints the slides for this theme will be shared with the group and can be discussed further at the next meeting.

PW/CH

Date of next meeting: 30 June 2021