

SEND Improvement Board Meeting- 27th April 2022

These are our notes (1st half from Peter and 2nd half from me) from today SEND Improvement Board meeting (11 to 13 on TEAMS)

Introductions and welcome

Parent attendees: Esther, Peter (PCT) Marion, Sarah Ward, Mel Hart (PCF), Dan (DCF)

Parent/Carer Co-Production Update - Sarah R

Ads going out 'ASAP' for participation worker and coproduction worker

Following publication of open letter, they've had 'lots of parents' expressing a wish to participate. 5 are lined up to join future board meetings to report on lived experience.

Alliance not going ahead, but Sarah says she's engaging in various groups and 'we have to celebrate our coproduction with parent carers'

Sarah W and Marion both raised the issue of getting more parents involved in Health workstreams / activities.

Marion - it's good that all groups represented here are generating more interest from more people to be involved in coproduction.

Written Statement of Action Programme Update Report - Sarah R / Jo Hooper

Overall progress = Amber

Two workstreams ranked amber - coproduction (due to slow recruitment of coproduction officer), and Identify & Assess (due to capacity issues)

Anthony Douglas has left as DFE advisor. Cathi will take over Culture workstream lead, supported by Helen Becker.

Cathi: 'this is really important for me to get under the skin of the culture issues'

Cathi has already had a hand-over meeting with Sarah W and 'other parent carers' (Does this include Sarah M?)

Sarah R appointed as permanent director of education, and overall responsible for WSOA.

Approval of Joint Commissioning Workstream documents - Julia Cramp

Two documents for approval

SEND joint commissioning T&F group - LA, plus CCG, plus Dan as parent rep

Discussion about governance arrangements

Cathi: This paper highlights areas of concern, but doesn't provide solutions.

Julia: need to have discussions between Cathi, Sarah Langdale and Sally Sandcraft as next step.

Cathi: don't just map meetings. What is the problem that we need to solve?

Sally Sandcraft: BCP children's partnership board is not the right structure now. We need a proper multi-agency board like we've got with Dorset CC.

[My comment - good to see Cathi pressing for real action on the next step, not just accepting the current report of the status quo.]

Nicola Green - where is the opportunity for 'so what' evaluation? It's coming up to a year since the inspection. This board needs to evaluate the improvement that we're making, not just review the activity that's happening.

Sally Sandcraft - still no written report on performance data / scorecard / outcomes.

Esther - I agree, we need to see actions, not just words, words... [Well said!!]

Claire (chair) - we need to see performance data as a big chunk of the next meeting.

Sarah W - culture workstream can help with some quick wins.

Mel - culture still needs changing, I still see 'eye-rolls' in some meetings.

Cathi - I want to hear when this happens, we need to call it out.

[12:00 - I had to leave the meeting]

SEND Green Paper update - Sarah Rampel

Simon mentioned again about the bigger issue still is the 59% increase of ECH Plans from January to March this year, comparing with the same period on last year (maybe due to Covid!), and lack of Psychologists, so they can't finalise them. We are not sure how is that happening (really, he is getting on my nerves!)

Julia Cramp - we are doing a workshop next week so potentially to find this information and share with us.

(My comment - Simon we are hearing the same thing all the time, no enough staff, changing from one computer system to the new one, etc... do you find out how other Boroughs near us (i.e.. Dorset, Hampshire, etc...) are doing? to see how they are coping with the demand and copy their strategies.)

Chris Jackson (SENCO) - Recruitment to resolve the issues. More parents are challenging us to get EHC plans but we haven't got the info from BCP, so this needs to be addressed as soon as possible to get that support.

Simon - we are trying to recruit more Case Officers (hopefully next month to start interviews)

Sarah Ward - how this is updated to the parents? Graduate respond, we don't have data and reports.

Cathi Hadley - Board has a data report, highlighting the areas with these concerns. We need to be accountable to the board. I will work with Sarah and Simon.

Simon - I want to give some good news, from 3000 EHC plans, 992 were made when the child under 5. The information to be available for the next meeting.

Update on SEND Scorecard - action from previous meeting

Rina Mistry gave an update on SEND Scorecard. Unfortunately, due to computer glitch she couldn't sent the data to all of us previously so she was sharing her screen and pointed to some info in the SIB scorecard. They will have a meeting to identify the key priorities in the data. They will discuss and analyses by the group, send to the action group and report to the SIB group. She thinks it will finalise in a month.

Claire (Chair) - Is the data available to the service, to the managers teams? And they can look at time scale?

Rina - Still available to them. However, we need still refine the data. Finalise hopefully next week, using relevant indicators. Other info or development workshop for parents/carers so the BCP landscape a dashboard for the parents too. She will send info with the minutes so we can give her feedback. (Agree to do that)

Chris (SENCO) - updating school care and share in Local Offer, making accessible.

Claire (Chair) - Challenge Rina to share all the data in advance for the next board meeting, so we all can internalise the current data and discussing then.

Sarah Ward - How families are getting the information from BCP? She knows that for the new EHC plans, the case officers had talked to the parents. But some parents managed to get the information 3 months later.

Marian - raised the info that Peter put in the chat earlier (Peter - but the demand for EHCPs is rising continually, and we need to continually plan/budget for an expectation that the demand will continue at 10-20% per annum for the foreseeable future)

Update on Health Change - new ICS and impact on delivery of WSoA

Sally Sandcraft (CCG) - they are still waiting for the respond at the Lord Chamber, so they are ready for the new ICS. The actual Clinical Comision Group goes to end at the end of June. So from July it will be Patricia Miller, the new Chair of Dorset and (she mentioned another name but at that point I was answering a phone call, sorry) They will be a new Executive appointment, so interviews are going on. She will be still hold her Portfolio (including Mental Health, Children in SEND, etc... and Pharmacist, Opticians and Dentist will be including later on). Some of the others Directors are leaving, so they are interviewing as we are speaking, so she will let us know when she finds out who is being appoint too. She also mentioned that she is retire in September, so other Director will be step in. She obviously hasn't been involved on the process for the interviews (12th May), so after that they will share the names of the people in charge. She reassures us that Sam Best will be continue on the team engaging with SEND, BCP, etc..

Claire (Chair) - Thanks for your contributions so far and we are glad to have you for a little bit longer before your retirement.

SEND Improvement Communications Plan

Karen Hollocks introduces herself and explain her role to the Board. She sent her long report but she has made a PowerPoint presentation (she will share that will the board with the minutes) with the highlights from the report. Since October last year she has been working with the Parents Carers Reps to support and improvement programme.

What families have told us: Local Offer needs to be up-to-date and easy to use; More Signposting to support; Two-way communication is key, council needs to listen and then respond; One-to-one communication needs to be responsive, with easy routes to contact the team.

What we will do: 1. Share progress and communicate change; 2. Listen - and respond; 3. Improve accessibility; 4. Engage with children and young people; 5. Improve access to SEND information and support.

At the end, she shows some examples of the branding and style and any feedback sending to her karen.hollocks@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Everyone agrees that she did a great job.

SEND Performance update

Sarah R - ask everyone to give feedback to the SEND Green Paper Consultation. She will send it to headteachers, Local Authority and partners.

Claire (Chair) - DfE will want to hear about this too.

Sarah R - we have a meeting with DfE at 2pm. We will show them the highlights of what is going well as well some of the risk too. They will also show them the written statement in milestone. Jo shows us an example of the Workstream Culture were area of improvement. Every 3 months they will check and monitor.

We were run out of time, so Claire (Chair) ask AOB (no one mention anything) and summarises some of the next actions for the next Board meeting.

- About Government arrangement for stakeholders.
- Work on production, SCORECARD is ongoing and progress.
- Communication Central to build this relation with the parents.

She thanks everyone for their contributions. The end of the meeting.