

WSoA 32 – ‘Specialist Equipment’ Meeting Terri’s Notes - 14th June 2022 2-3pm

Have been looking at identifying data which includes the usual equipment such as slings. Inventory needs to be updated as there are so many items no longer in use. Using historic data - years of having to unpick information.

Schools will so say to funding equipment if an EHCP is in place so they are then referred to charities but settings should make reasonable adjustments. No Post 16 info included.

BCP budget is much lower than Dorset - no reasonable rationale behind it. Could be due to covid lockdown.

When trying to compare with Dorset they specify type of support but with a limit of upto £1,000. With BCP they just have an upper limit of £1,000 with no specifications.

Mary Diffey - policy has been updated but needs finalisation with tender (who will be successful bidder as no point naming NRS when not sure) which won't be until 1st April 2023. Still need solution for longer term issues but have to wait to see who will be the contractor.

Mary going to check about a designated contact regarding insurance - Andrew Yen - what is covered and what isn't.

Mary - still query over early years funding.

Policy will then be sent to Quality Assurance Officer to check over final details.

Chloe SALT - need to clarify processes. Currently when low tech option - trial paperbase first. If high tech (IT based system) the offered a trial for a term. If yes then at consequent annual review, but there are currently only 5 ipads. If high level tech, then they are only assessed and recommendations made - they WILL NOT provide them

Parents can buy their own or go to charities.

Lesley - Moving/handling - Dorset recruit to do training but not in BCP - is there any available?

Early Years - BCP Health and Safety Training Support Officer

1. Discuss with CHAD - what do they do
2. Perhaps parents can access the training staff get (after Terri mentioned parents don't receive any manual handling training unless it's to do with a piece of equipment. No support on how to get a child in or out of a car etc.

Stacks of specialist equipment in specialist schools - bespoke to the child so once outgrown it needs to be recycled/reused or stored but just sitting in cupboards not being used. They're reluctant to give away so suggest a swap store or have it recycled - perhaps offer some financial gain.

Also it was asked whether NHS OTs are involved in specialist schools, and how much of an input do they have. Terri said at VEC they don't have NHS OTs as they employ their own but then VEC isn't a funded school. So investigation into other specialist schools will be made.

Terri mentioned about a young child unable to be safely transported in parent's car - family have approached a charity for a ceiling harness. Chloe Morley expressed concerns with this, as this is classed as restrictive. Perhaps family could do with wrap around support and focus on behaviour. Will forward this information on to Beth.

Looking to launch new policy September 2022