

**SEND and Alternative Provision
Strategy & Partnership Board
6 September, 11.30 – 13.30**

The Old Court Room, North Street, Chichester

1. Ways of Working

- Following the Impower review of SEND governance in West Sussex, we now have an independent Chair, Brian Pope.
- This is an opportunity for us to recommit to the partnership working model.
- The board will not be concerned with operational decisions but will take a strategic overview of the SEND and AP agenda in West Sussex.
- Members are encouraged to prioritise meetings but when they can't attend, can send a deputy.
- Meetings to be face to face and will be shared between Horsham and Chichester.
- BP to lead on developing a Forward Plan.
- Documents to be circulated in advance of meetings where possible.
- Minutes and Action Log to be circulated.
- Data dashboard is being updated to reflect partnership working and to align with the new Ofsted Framework.

ACTION:

- 1.1 SN to address representation from schools and early years sector

2. Update from West Sussex Parent Carer Forum

- Will bring the finalised Partnership Agreement (WSPCF, ICB and WSCC) to October meeting which will be overseen by this SEND-AP Board.
- WSPCF to have a monthly slot on the SEND-AP Board agenda.
- While it is recognised that there is a lot of work going on with WSCC and the NHS to improve the lived experience for families, the impact of this is not yet being felt.
- The language used by families is no longer around fight and battle; words used now include tiredness and defeat. People have run out of energy.
- The main issue is waiting lists, across all areas, but particularly with CAMHS, NDP pathways, and Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments. Early Help picks up a lot of families while they are on waiting lists but while they can offer advocacy and support, they can't help them jump queues.
- A common theme from complaints received is lack of communication while waiting for assessment. We need to get better at emailing families to reassure them that their cases are being worked on.

ACTIONS:

- 2.1 RW to bring Partnership Agreement to October board meeting.
- 2.2 HJ to raise sending acknowledgement emails to families with Inclusion Teams.
- 2.3 Consider face to face meetings with parents – joint sessions WSCC and WSPCF.
- 2.4 SC to offer Virtual School training to SENAT around structured /difficult conversations for those occasions when we can't provide what families want.
 - 2.5 SB to meet with RW outside the meeting to discuss co-production of curriculum.

3. Participation of Children/young people with SEND

See attached presentation.

- Voice and Participation Strategy has three pillars: Listening, Sharing & Influencing, and Acting.
- We have a number of methods of listening to young people (SEND Young Voices, informal fun days, surveys, Padlet) but need to work on how we share with them the difference that their feedback has made and what actions we have taken.
- Voice and Participation team is working with Kathy Lockyear on a co-production framework.

Questions / issues arising:

- Key concerns of CYP are need for more support with mental health and access to facilities and schools.
- Need to formally collate examples of how different services/teams are listening to and acting upon CYP voice and bring it back to this board so that it is heard and acknowledged by decision makers. Examples and suggestions given in the meeting are below.
 - As part of the SEND & Inclusion Strategy work:
 - SENCO Conference in June 2023 had a focus on pupil voice and included a powerful [presentation by pupils from Angmering](#) around what is and what isn't working well for them. One of the main concerns raised by the CYP is around transition points and this will be an area of focus in the Improvement Plan.
 - Grace Thompson delivered a presentation to the SEND Stakeholder Forum on the lived experience of a young person with SEND and the challenges they have faced accessing different services.
 - The Autism in Schools project has successfully piloted a model whereby participating schools, many of which were primary, now have an active Autism Ambassador. These children are trained and supported – it would be useful to bring in their voice to this board.
 - Pupil voice and participation is a key priority in the Standards & Effectiveness Service, e.g., it was the focus for the recent Governors Association Conference and will be central to the Launch Day for Disadvantaged Children.
 - We should also link up with families who have chosen to educate their children at home, and why they made that decision.
 - A youth panel is in the process of being set up as part of Health Watch. It will be for CYP across all parts of the system, so they are looking at how to include CYP with SEND in that work.
- Children in Care Council is a successful group already set up. All but two members have an EHCP. We can ask for feedback on issues.

ACTIONS:

3.1 Once we have set up the Forward Plan with agenda items, we can share this with TW / LB / SC and ask for feedback from SEND Young Voices and the Children in Care Council. They will need 2-3 months' notice.

3.2 LB could film the discussions for showing at future meetings.

3.3 LB to email BP with issues of concern raised by CYP.

3.4 Board members to think about examples of how they use Pupil Voice and email BP.

3.5 DT to liaise with LB – it would be useful for her to visit and hear from the pupils at APC.

4. Outcomes and themes from other Local Authority SEND Inspections

Questions/issues arising:

- If inspected tomorrow, we're hoping we would get the middle ranking, but we need to address timeliness and communication with families, which are key to improving the lived experience of families.
- We need to improve the support offered to CYP and their families while they are on waiting lists – WSCC and health.
- CT producing briefing papers on NDP, Mental Health and Therapies.
- Parent Carer forums nationally do not agree with the judgements where local areas have been given the highest grading, which doesn't align with the lived experience of families. Some forums have made formal complaints to Ofsted about how they were treated during the inspection. They also feel the bar is currently set far too low – e.g., there seems to be an acceptance of waiting lists.
- This might be because it is a new inspection framework. Once more embedded, the bar might be set higher.
- WSPCF is linking with other charities and putting together stakeholder meetings to ensure their voices are heard in the inspection.

ACTION:

4.1 The [SEND & Inclusion Strategy 2019-2024](#) should be reviewed and aligned with the SEF – to be brought to a future meeting.

5. EHCP Timeline Response Plan

See attached presentation. Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the October meeting

6. Forward Plan

BP to co-ordinate the drafting of a forward plan based upon the agreed agenda items for future meetings and priorities identified.