

# Parent feedback meeting

17 January 2018

**In attendance:** Tim Armstrong (Head of SEN, Sheffield City Council), Scarlett Milward (CCG commissioner), Julie Chambers (SPCF trustee), Laura Gillespie (SPCF trustee), Katie Monette (SPCF Chair), Eva Juusola (SPCF Participation Coordinator, notes)

## Parent carer representation on Health boards

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**Background:** There are a number of health projects, such as the redesign of neurodisability services or reviewing health input into EHCPs, which will affect children and young people with SEND.

**The issue:** There is currently no parent carer representation on Health boards (with the exception of medical respite).

**Work to be done:** The Neurodisability review is yet to start, and work will commence in early April 2018. It is likely that there will be two workstreams (ASD referral pathways and community therapies), and both will have parent carer representation. Scarlett will send timescales to SPCF once agreed with Sheffield Children's Hospital. Other workstreams (e.g. Continuing Care, CETRs) do not currently have parent carer representation as they are about improving internal processes.

## EHCP template

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**Background:** Tim has issued a suite of draft documents to support the graduated approach (including a revised EHCP template) and requested feedback from a range of stakeholders, including parent support groups.

**The issue:** Tim has produced a revised EHCP template, incorporating feedback from parents, schools, professionals, SEN tribunal judge Jane McConnell and the Department for Education. We need to consider which of the latest versions is the most appropriate to use – one links needs and provision, the other links outcomes and provision across a range of needs. The templates need to be tested by using them with a real child.

**Work to be done:** We agreed that, if the needs and provision table is to be used, then the Outcomes section should come straight after section A, to provide the "golden thread" running through the document. The new SEN service manager will also need to input into the template. This will be followed by a desk exercise, populating both versions with data from a real child. We will then hold a workshop to assess the templates and start drafting the guidance notes.

## Transforming Care

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**Background:** SPCF reps have attended two meetings of the Transforming Care Steering Group.

**The issue:** The meetings were very adult-focused, and discussions were difficult to follow due to use of jargon. How can we ensure that parent carers can input their views?

**Work to be done:** SPCF reps will email a summary of their concerns to Tim, who will discuss them with relevant officers.

### **Feedback from meeting with Department for Education**

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**Background:** Tim, Scarlett, Katie and Eva attended a meeting with representatives from the Department for Education, which looked at Sheffield's performance in implementing the SEND reforms.

**The issue:** Attendees raised a number of issues, particularly with mainstream schools, such as inconsistent practice, lack of fluidity, lack of post-diagnostic support, problems with the transition to secondary school, lack of alternatives to GCSE, lack of accountability etc. How will these be taken forward?

**Work to be done:** The comments will be fed into the strategic review of SEN provision and the Inclusion Strategy and associated outcomes framework. The Inclusion Strategy needs to have a strong focus on addressing the issues around mainstream inclusion.

We also discussed the best way to embed coproduction principles and agreed to look at developing a coproduction charter. We will consider charters produced by other areas, e.g. Rotherham, at the next meeting, and then hold a focused workshop to develop our own version. We need to ensure that young people with SEND are part of this process and whether this could be incorporated into work already done by Chilypep. The charter would need to be signed off by the Inclusion Programme Board.

### **Attitudes of professionals**

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**Background:** SPCF outreach volunteers met with parents from the Autism Hope support group in Parson Cross.

**The issue:** Several parents raised concerns about attitudinal barriers to supporting parents of low socioeconomic status. They felt that there was tendency among professionals (e.g. MAST workers, GPs, school staff) to assume that their children's problems are due to parenting issues, rather than the child's disability. They felt that parenting courses were being used to block parents from accessing services.

**Work to be done:** SPCF have arranged a follow-up visit in March. Tim suggested that this could be used for a listening event, which could be attended by a MAST manager and perhaps the locality SENCO or locality lead head teacher. SPCF will suggest this to Autism Hope and feed back to Tim.