

**Minutes of a meeting of the PiP Parent Forum  
Held on Wednesday 21 June at 10.00 am**

**Present:** Roxanna Kishore-Bigord, Debbie Olutunfese, Diana Albiston, Jane Henderson, Agnieszka Gebka, Jane Speller, Vijaya Gonsalvez (part) Elizabeth de Zoysa (part)

**Apologies:** Karen Reid, Catherine Webb, Nicole Sowrey-Lewin, Sarah-Jane Orr, Jane Poulter, Louise Jones

**ACTION TABLE**

Item No	ACTION	BY WHOM	WHEN
2	Roopah/Sarah Block to talk to young people in year 10 at different settings including Cotelands to get their feedback/views on the post-16 prospectus	RD/SB	ongoing
2	Roopah to send JS notes from the parent forum meeting with agreed actions to improve the prospectus	RD/SB	By end June
2	RD/SB to ask Alison Farmer if there are any plans to extend the offer of the Bensham Manor 6 <sup>th</sup> form	RD/SB	By 13 July
3	SBG to answer questions raised about EHCP hub at the forum	SBG	By 13 July
3	PiP to attend Local Offer planning meeting on 27 June	PiP	27 June
3	Parents are encouraged to look at Local Offers of other authorities, eg Hackney to be informed about how it can be done	Parent Forum	ongoing
4	JS to confirm invite parent reps to next parent reference group on 18 September	JS	By 21 July
5	PiP to meet Gill Brock and Caroline Boardman about local Health agenda	AG/JS	29 June
8	AG to identify parents to attend Autism Partnership Board	AG	21 July

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Jane welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies from members unable to make it.

Please note the order of items was changed during the course of the meeting but the notes reflect the order of the original agenda.

## **2. Post-16 Prospectus**

Roopah and Sarah Block joined the meeting to invite feedback from parents on what they would like to be included in next year's post-16 prospectus (17/18). This prompted a lively discussion about how best to represent parents' concerns and young people's opinions.

The main comment from individuals at the forum was that one page devoted to SEND in the prospectus is woefully inadequate and not fair in terms of emphasis of the offer. Some people would like there to be a separate prospectus for SEND in future. The forum agreed that having both a digital version of the prospectus (with assistive software) and a printed version makes it more accessible for different needs.

A question was also raised about whether the offer at Bensham Manor 6<sup>th</sup> form could be extended to a wider cohort.

Roopah circulated a list of possible questions to include in the prospectus, which have been put together after feedback from parents and transition leads at special schools (amongst other people consulted). When asked, she confirmed that no young people with SEND had been consulted and the forum emphasised the importance of this needing to happen from now on.

The forum was also told that there was a limited budget and time available to get the prospectus to print and the forum reminded the post-16 team that time to talk to parents and young people should always be built in to the production process. The print deadline must have been known for some time and cannot be given as an excuse for not consulting.

The following questions were raised by the forum:

What if my child's (complex) needs can't be met in any of the settings in Croydon?

How can the timetable/curriculum be adapted for my child?

Is the school SENCO the same in the 6<sup>th</sup> form?

Will the current CAMHS support my child is receiving transfer over to the post-16 setting?

How would you provide emotional and sensory support?

How is the listening environment adapted?

What kind of adaptations exist for children with hearing impairments?

How is transport funded to post-16 settings (in an out of Croydon)?

Will an easy read version of the prospectus be produced?

Roopah was realistic about what could be achieved for the 17/18 prospectus – ie that there wouldn't be a separate one for SEND. But she gave her assurance that she would improve/extend the guidance page.

## **3. Proposed EHCP Hub (Sheryl Brand-Grant 0-25 SEND project manager)**

Sheryl joined the meeting to present the proposal for an online EHCP hub to better manage the process of producing, updating and reviewing a plan once the request to assess has been agreed. Three parent reps had previously

seen it at a meeting on 5 June at BWH. She was unable to bring the product itself to this meeting as it hasn't yet been purchased from the external provider, but is still at the proposal stage.

These were the questions posed to Sheryl at this meeting after she presented print outs of slides:

- Who owns all the data? How will security/data protection requirements be met?
- Have any other Boroughs gone live with this Hub?
- Is it an option for Croydon to wait until other Boroughs are using it, to get feedback on its effectiveness?
- Would there be a meeting at the end of the process to finalise the draft?
- Would it allow for conversation between key parties and not just rely on data input?
- How will the Hub ensure co-production?
- Will the Hub show milestones for production of the plan?

An obvious benefit of the online hub is the ability to post videos, wikis etc to better highlight the child/young person's needs at the centre of the plan.

#### Local offer

Croydon has now contracted a company to produce a new Local Offer which will go up to age 65. (This is the same company who are in discussion with Croydon about providing the EHCP hub). Work will start on the Local Offer in June and a steering group will be established to ensure co-production with parents/carers, young people etc. A Local Offer digital development officer will be recruited to work at the LA.

It was suggested that parents take a look at the Hackney local offer as this is a good example of the kind of format Croydon favour.

#### **4. Parent reference group**

The first meeting of the group took place on 26 May (see attached notes and membership list).

It was agreed that PiP would provide parent reps to go to each meeting. RK-O, DO, VG all expressed an interest in attending.

#### **5. Feedback from NNPCF south west cluster meeting**

ASD diagnoses in SW London Trust

JS and JH had attended the recent cluster meeting. A key item discussed was the situation regarding ASD diagnoses in Merton. It was confirmed that parents had taken action – calling a meeting with the CCG, contacting the press and the BBC – to highlight the illegality of Merton announcing that they would no longer be accepting referrals for diagnosis of ASD. Representatives from Wandsworth and Sutton forums also highlighted the action they were taking to protest at this proposal.

SW London Trust have now withdrawn their proposal.

**6. Strengthening Health partnerships**

Debbie fed back from the Health event she had attended with JS. The event had been run by the Council for Disabled Children and NHS England.

Gill Brock (Croydon DMO) had attended and it had been useful to talk to her about her role in Croydon and in particular the need to establish an agreed autism pathway.

AG and JS are meeting Gill Brock (DMO) and Caroline Boardman (Paediatric Service Redesign Manager) on 29 June to establish priorities and accountability for Health under the SEND reforms.

**7. Co-production of future day opportunities**

Building on the 'Walk in Our Shoes' report, the LA are continuing to review the offer of day opportunities for adults with LD in Croydon. This work is aimed to be co-produced with the users of the service, include the voice of YP who may use the service in future, parent/carers, as well as local organisations. There have been 2 meetings so far where an approach has been discussed and a plan of work with important questions/issues noted.

The work forms part of the Short Breaks review. Minutes are available.

**8. AOB**

PiP would like a parent/carer to attend the Autism Partnership Board. AG to approach parents about this.

An Ofsted inspection of children's services is currently taking place in Croydon. PiP encouraged parents to look at the local ombudsman website. Inspectors might ask for parental views and Pip will keep the forum posted about this.

**9. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting is at 10.00 on Thursday 13 July