

MINUTES
OF
PACC STEERING GROUP MEETING
BRIGHELM CENTRE
TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER, 2011

PRESENT: Amanda, Debbie, Carrie, Nicky, Jill, Doreen, Susmitha, Sam, Sharon, Martin, Tim, Philippa (Social Work Student with Amaze)

APOLOGIES: Ruby, Sarah, Emma, Juliette, Marion, Kerry

MINUTES: *Jill*

Amanda welcomed Carrie, our PaCC Guru!
Welcome to Tim, father of twin boys in mainstream.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

Training - This will be with Carrie at St. Richards Community Centre on 26 and 27 January, 2012, details to follow. It was acknowledged that new parents should be invited to the group. The Partnership Charter parents who will be welcomed to this training.

Access To The Wave – We still cannot access this. Debbie raised this with Jo Lyons who said the number of passwords had been reduced. No reason was given. The Wave is good for so much information and really beneficial. Martin and Amanda are Governors and they have passwords. **Action:-Amanda will distribute when she knows the password. Martin will ask why not able to get on Wave.**

Calendar - Debbie asked for a round of applause for Amanda, Nicky, Sharon and Susmitha for organising the calendar after only two meetings. As with last year each steering group member will be given five calendars and Key Professionals will be sent one.

Information Fair - This went really, really well. Lots of parents were in attendance. Marketing of parents was good. CVSF information fair and Hillside also opened their new building on the same day. Next year we should check with other organisations if events will be on the same day.

Feedback from the training workshops was good

PaCC Health Event: Discuss in further at a later date

STEERING GROUP BUSINESS

New Chair - Debbie's role with PaCC is changing. At present she does 12 hours for PaCC and 5 hours with Amaze Helpline. As part of the SE7 Pathfinder Bid for Brighton and Hove she has been asked to work alongside Jacqueline Coe to help lead the support to parents and carers strand of the green paper. This means that her PaCC working hours will be cut. We discussed how the role of the chair will be supported. Debbie proposed that Amanda, who has already been chair for 2 years stands for another year with a Parent alongside her to learn the role. This was agreed with a unanimous vote.

One person has shown interest in becoming chair. The Roles and Responsibilities of the job were presented to the group along with a basic outline proforma to complete

Action:- Debbie to circulate these to other members who were not present. Interested candidates to send their responses to the proforma back to Debbie ready for vote in February

Communication with the wider membership - has not been given much priority.

- We need to be able to feedback parental opinion at the boards we sit on.
- Reports can be brief on the website with greater use made of links to other reports containing more information.
- We have had the newsletter article showing what boards parents sit on but this could also be on the facebook site.
- If we need immediate feedback then we can put an item into the Amaze Compass Bulletin.
- The feedback sheet is important for us all to complete. To provide the information especially if another parent has to step into that role. It is also part of good practice that the feedback is completed and it is crucial for instant information. (Feedback Form should accompany the Expenses Form and if it is not complete then expenses can't be claimed.)
- We need more activity on Facebook. Facebook for SE7 meetings to gather views of PaCC. **Action:-Amanda to look at Facebook settings for email notification and re-activate if necessary.**
- We need to consider parents who do not have internet access. About a third are without email. **Action:- Bulletin could go in prominent local venues where parents can see it. Maybe this could be a joint piece of work with Amaze to find out which areas we are not reaching.**
- Other areas for outreach are the RACH, Community Centres and Childrens' Centres. This could be done through face to face contact at coffee mornings. Members of the PaCC steering group could attend school parents' evenings to tell parents how they can help shape and change services for their children. In the New Year we could trial a six month period of active recruitment and monitor the numbers of parents who join as a result of this. One idea to promote this could be a twice yearly coffee morning at the Brighthelm centre involving the Community Development Workers. This will not suit everyone especially dads. We could use other agencies that families are already in touch with to spread our message.

Action:- set up working party to look at issue of widening our membership. To produce an information pack so that we can distribute this easily. Debbie to network with a friend who has connections in Whitehawk.

FEEDBACK FROM REPS

DCSPB – The social care team have been working on the introduction of individualized budgets for families to pay for their own respite. They are working on a resource allocation system and will be recruiting about 10 families in the autumn. Rachel and Debbie are on the planning team and are always putting the parents perspective into the discussion.

Ruby is the parent rep on the board and Sam has been asked to join her. Group affirmed this with a vote.

Currently the Fed manage the Direct Payment budgets for parents who wish for another party to manage the budget responsibilities. They also manage a bank of Pas but are not easy to get hold of and have not been able to provide families with Pas when they have requested help. The Carers Centre also have a PA bank.

Strategically we are in a good position to lobby for change. The FED traditionally have more contact with adult social care and are not set up to cater for the needs of our families. It is important for us to understand how much of the total population of families who receive DPs actually get help from the FED. If this is small than the level of dissatisfaction needs to be put into the right context.

Action:- Nicky and Martin to look into the feedback from parents about the FED

SE7 –Following the Green Paper the SE7 (West Sussex, East Sussex, Brighton & Hove, Medway, Kent, Hampshire and Surrey) put in a bid to become a Pathfinder led by East Sussex. This area covers ¼ of the total pathfinders in the country. Brighton and Hove's SE7 lead is Jacqueline Coe.

Core Activities that all the regions have to undertake are:-

- Joined up assessment Health, Social Care & Education for a young person with SEN 0-25 years of age.
- Education, Health& Social Care coming up with a single plan of care for the young person
- Implementing a Local Offer which explains what a family can expect the LA to provide in the way of SEN for their children.
- Greater engagement with Community/Voluntary Sector.

Optional areas that will be led by individual areas are

- Personal budgets - West Sussex are further down the road and are taking the lead on this.
- Banded Funding - allocation of young people 0-25 age and employment.
- Support to Parent and Carers'- Brighton and Hove are leading on this with Hampshire.
- Support to vulnerable children

The pathfinder will run for 18 months finishing in March 2013. Following this there will be an evaluation of all the pathfinder activity which will continue for the next couple of years. The government will eventually produce a White paper which will become the new SEN legislation. Nicola and Martin are the parent reps on the change board overseeing this work in Brighton & Hove.

Nicola has attended an information workshop on Individualised Budgets run by West Sussex and In Control, a national charity helping to support families who have Individualised Budgets. By 2014 it is hoped that all families will have access to these budgets. For the purposes of the pathfinder the number of families chosen will be very small. Nicola and Martin will need to argue that the range of families in the pilot needs to be varied. As a pathfinder region it has been proposed that children and young people with sensory needs will be one of the main focus. It is possible that Jacqueline Coe will choose to pilot these budgets with families of children with sensory impairment. Brighton & Hove are behind in their planning of these budgets compared to other LAs.

There are still a lot of myths emerging about what the pathfinder status will mean for families. At present the law has not changed and parents can still request a statutory assessment. A statement will still be issued if thought necessary. Debbie and Jacqueline are in the process of writing an explanation for parents and school staff to help dispel some of these myths. A Regional Parent Group are meeting together every two months to support each other and work out strategies together. Carrie is part of the DOE national group that is helping to steer the work of the pathfinders.

PARTNERSHIP CHARTER

The Charter was officially launched on the 22nd November. Due to admin error several senior people were not able to attend but the event was well attended especially by parents. Ambassadors have been carrying out there assessments again. Drove Road achieved two stars and Link Plus 3 stars. Amanda is now meeting with Sharon Sartin and Ellen Jones in a working [party to see how this can be rolled out to mainstream children and family services. Jacqueline Coe is also keen for it to be rolled out across schools. Carrie: This work belongs to PaCC and helpful to say Carrie involved with further links.

EDUCATION AND SEN

Debbie presented the report at CYPOSC and now a working party of Adrian Carver, Bob Wall, Janet Felkin, Rachel Travers, Amanda and Debbie are looking at the recommendations from the report to see how they can be implemented. Academy's invited to be observers.

Janet Felkin, head teacher of Blatchington Mill, has a large number of children with SEN. A new group made up of parents and senior members of staff are now looking at how inclusion can be made more meaningful for children with SEN at the school. The first meeting is scheduled for the 12th December. This example of good practice should be shared with other schools.

PACC THEMES

HEALTH EVENT

It was felt that, due to time restraints, another meeting was needed to discuss the Health Event.

Action: - Amanda to organize a subgroup with Gilli, Amanda, Doreen, Sam to meet up before Christmas to start plans for the health event.

It is proposed that the health event will follow a similar format as our education event. Professionals invited to make response to our recommendations. We will need scribes and facilitators, and, roles for members on the day. It was agreed to move the date of the Health

Event to 07 March, 2012. The next Steering Group meeting on 11 January, 2012, will focus on the Health Event. Carrie to attend, if possible. Ros, from Amaze, will be attending to talk about the 'Local Offer' at the next steering group meeting which will now be on the 8th February.

A.O.B.

Steering Group Meetings. 'Dates for your Diaries' for the year ahead:

11 January, 2012 (health event planning meeting)

08 February

07 March, 2012 (EVENT)

09 May, 2012

04 July, 2012

12 September, 2012

07 November, 2012

Carrie reminded the group that with all the information about the coming changes for us 'Not to get Anxious'. Brighton and Hove PaCC has shaped good practice. We should take a 'Pat on the Back' that we have achieved lots since we started.

Debbie invited all the group for a meal out. Date to be in January and will be the evening.