

DERBY'S SEND

LOCAL OFFER

Local Offer User Group Notes

Meeting Thursday 13 July 12.30am-2.00pm

Attendees:

Peter Cades (PC), Sally Morton (SM), Ozma Rani (OR)
Charlotte Dolman (CD), Dan Marson (DM)
Amanda Allsop (AA) emailed her notes.

Actions from previous meeting were confirmed.

Summary of discussion

Short Breaks

- Unfortunately, there was no one to attend from Short Breaks. However, DM noted this maybe best as most of the new services are launching over the summer. **Action: CD to add to next meeting's agenda DONE**

New Transitions Protocol

OR thought that the opening paragraphs need softening, came across as “we’re trying to meet your need” and it’s about “capacity” and “pressures” rather than we will support you to transition **ACTION – DM to update wording on published version**

PC believed the SENCOs should lead this because they have those parental relationships.

DM questioned whether it should be communicated via parents or schools.

PC & OR agreed SENCO’s should spread the word to their targeted parents.

OR thought parents could receive the information less formally, maybe a leaflet, not so wordy. **ACTION: CD & DM to discuss options**

DM is cautious because this idea has never been part of the conversation. Once in special school, you stay in special school. It would only be for a handful of children and how do we approach the idea.

PC agreed it would be a small, targeted amount of children and what a great opportunity.

DM wondered whether the idea should be mentioned in their Year 6 letters.



PC thought it best to ask SENCO who are best placed to know those children.

DM agreed to communicate to parents through SENCOs and SEND officers to target potential children.

There was discussion around 'trust' and how important it is, as DCC is not a trusted organisation but schools generally are for parents.

PC asked if it could go on the Local Offer (LO).

DM agreed and suggested on the Annual Review page as part of the EHC review process when discussing other possible settings. **ACTION: CD to update webpage with link to policy and parent leaflet**

DM & PC exchanged good news stories whereby pupils had successfully transitioned from Ivy House to other settings.

PC discussed the fact that GCSE's aren't set up for SEND children. Schools can't deliver the range of GCSEs which is why dual schooling could work.

DM recently met with special school heads to outline the dual approach with a view to the 'hub and spoke' Special School launching January 2024.

AA emailed:

- It looks good as a professional document written for schools and other professionals but it is too in-depth and language too complex for most parents as an initial document. From the meeting notes I think it looks like this is what was discussed.
- I see the best opportunity to put children in mainstream instead of special schools as being better meeting of needs in primary schools. The contrast between mainstream class and enhanced resource class is huge. If some of these 'enhancements' could be put in place in the mainstream then children would be able to progress before they get to year 7 and have no option but to go to special school.

How should these meetings progress? Happy with the structure?

DM wanted feedback on how members see these meetings progressing? We are getting what we want from discussion but are they.

PC was glad to have an input. Could we invite SENCOs and young people.

DM asked would member like to explore meatier topics or keep to an ad-hoc approach. **ACTION: members to email CD DONE**

Newsletter ideas, things to share

DM asked whether member had any items for the newsletter. The audience being very wide.



PC asked how it is distributed.

DM said an emailed distribution list of parents and professionals which it is hoped will be a subscription based format once DCC IT has created one. Senior Leadership Teams do receive it to circulate to staff.

PC shared Disability Direct was developing a new pathway that he would be happy to share for the newsletter. **ACTION: PC to share a contact for Disability Direct**
DONE

AA emailed:

Can it be included with Home to School travel communications? Ask schools to include link in their weekly newsletters.

AOB

SM would like next meetings topic to be about adult health and social care, not just hospitals but particularly GPs and dentists. **ACTION: CD to add to next agenda**
DONE

Next meeting:

CD to look at dates for the next meeting.

- Short Breaks
- Adult health and social care – the practicalities

