

SEND Steering Group, also Known as “SEND Reforms Group”

28th March 2018

Notes

Present: Vikki Monk-Meyer (VMM), Heulwen Rees (HR), Ellika McAuley (EM), Silva Hurtado (SH), Liz Alsford (LA) UTA, David Collins (DC), Jeannette Brand (JB) Maureen Duncan (MD) UTA, lisa Ferguson (LF) and Kenton Doyle (KD), Tauhida Choudry (TC)

1. Minutes and Matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting were not available

2. EHC Conversions- current progress and future plan

- Noted that there were still a number to convert which we were in discussions with DfE about
- Of these 199 should be complete by the end of March 2018
- Comments were that there were still a lot of requests for full reassessment - discussed the role of the Educational Psychologist and when an assessment would add value e.g. when there was a significant change in circumstance for a child. Annual review reports should be provided as a matter of course by therapies.
- Use of personal budgets is increasing for those with health needs
- Discussed how the new plans could be quality assured and impact measured – audit needed
- There was a request for professionals to make sure that reports are submitted on time as part of the assessment, as this is a significant factor in EHC's being issued late

3. Independent and out borough schools – quality assurance

- The group discussed how the use of these schools could be more systematically audited
- SENDIASS feedback that there were casework themes around schools not being aware of the reforms if they were independent schools, although there were notable example of schools being extremely thorough and aware.
- There were some concerns about high turnover of staff and staff not being well trained in one or two schools
- Some of the schools used advice and support well, and were solution focussed
- There was a general theme that although the parents were loosely happy with the schools, they tended not to ask for support as readily through SEN if things were not working
- There were two school mentioned where the offer to the child was not as sophisticated as the funding requested

4. EHC Threshold document

- The document was agreed with some minor amendments - version 11 to be issued before upload to the local offer

- It was noted that the 6 month gap between assessments was if a full EHC assessment had been completed in the last 6 months, not just a request

5. Direct Payments Event

Explained the new event to be held on the 10th May 2018 which will be held at the Cypriot Centre. Abdul Sahad explained that there is a project being carried out to simplify the direct payments process and help families access direct payments more easily. The flyer will be sent out shortly.

6. Single Route of re-dress

There was a discussion about the impact of this work and the implications for the health and care services. Tauhida said that the services would not be able to state 'not known' if an assessment was requested. The plan could only be challenged if there were concerns about the education section and then families wanted other sections considered. VMM outlined that the services had been made aware and were considering their needs in the light of this change in policy.

7. Work plan for the coming year

The group agreed:

- Quality assurance of EHCP
- Annual review progress/process and outcomes
- Out borough places - provision map, preferred provider and quality assurance
- Social care and health outcomes in the plan – children with complex needs
- Child's voice

8. Eligibility for DCT

JB thanked the group for all of their input into amending the draft DCT Eligibility criteria which has now been updated with everyone's contributions. Copy to be sent out with these minutes.

AOB

Next meeting: Camhs 9th MAY 2018 tbc

