



Minutes of County Forum Parent Carers' Voice For Families of Children with Special Needs

11th November 2008 at Fisherman's Cot, Bickleigh

Present:

Jeanette Kemlo	Parent Carers Voice County Chair/Locality Chair - North
Julia Lock	Parent Carers' Voice Project Co-ordinator (DACVS)
Helen Phillips	Development worker – Teignbridge and South Hams & West Devon
Lois Markworth	Locality Co-Chair – East Devon
Jo Woodcock	Locality Chair – South Hams
Gill Kurzeil	Locality Co-Chair – West Devon
John Shaw	Strategic Commissioner for Children with Additional Needs
Beryl Perrin	Aiming High Commissioning Officer
Pete Squire	ICS Manager - North
Liz Carroll	CYPS Early Years & Childcare Service
Sue Brealey	Parent Partnership Liaison Officer
Gwen Pearson	PCT children's commissioner
Cathy Hill	DISCplus Team Leader

Apologies:

Nicky Ruane	PCV - Development Worker Exeter & Mid,
Ian Simmins	Locality Co-Chair – East Devon
Cathy Sharp	Locality Co-Chair – West Devon
Julie Wilson	Locality Co- Chair – Mid Devon
Sarah Bowles	Locality Vice Chair – South Hams
Margaret Ladbury	Locality Chair – Exeter
Cathie Wreford-Holden	Locality Chair – Teignbridge
Donna Longmead	Locality Vice Chair - North
Abby Buckley	Inclusions Play Co-ordinator

Welcome, Introductions

JK welcomed everyone to the County Meeting and those present introduced themselves

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed.

Matters Arising

John Parkes Unit – Gwen Pearson PCT updated the meeting. The 6 Devon children who go to JPU have all been visited and individually assessed and provision made.

Discussion on the services offered and the best use of Devon money followed.

ACTIONS:

JK, Jayne Carolle and Anne Whiteley to meet quarterly to exchange ideas and concerns
JK emailed Hazel Skinner regarding parents to help the libraries provide a better service for children with additional needs – nothing set up as yet
Andrew Brent – Transport – letter sent to JK thanking the County Forum for their frank views, a new transport policy will be issued in January 2010 with formal consultations taking place in Jan/Feb when the draft is in place he will send PCV a copy. He has spoken with Pathfields regarding tamper proof boxes.

Locality Reports

Brief updates from each locality were given, more detailed reports from each locality can be viewed on the PCV website at www.parentcarersvoice.org

North

There is no Development Worker covering this area at the present time

At the last locality meeting it was discussed how the group wanted the involvement of the JAS Managers and it was decided that a standard invitation would be sent with the expectation that the managers would attend and contribute to the group and be available to individual parents afterwards.

Next meeting - November 24th Cedars Inn in Barnstaple 10.15am for 10.30am – 12.30 We have a speaker from the Portage service joining us to speak about the help they can offer for younger children with additional needs. Join us to find out more.

Mid Devon

Next Meeting - November 25th, Fisherman's Cot, Bickleigh 10.30 – 12.30

Miriam Guard, parent and autism trainer is coming along to give a repeat of her popular talk. Do join us to share your experiences of life with a teenager, pick up some tips and have a good laugh.

East

Our most recent meeting was held on 13th October at the Heathfield Inn, Honiton. It was a lovely relaxed meeting with several suggestions for future events and speakers

We have two meetings provisionally arranged for Tuesday 1st December **and** Tuesday 9th February. Both will probably be held in the Honiton area as this seems to be a popular choice with many people.

Exeter

Recently we met at the Imperial and discussed what our priorities should be for the next few months. What has emerged is that parents want a mix of both informal meetings where they can meet with other parents and exchange information, as well as the more formal meetings where representatives of the Joint Agency Service attend. Hopefully we can put together a programme over the next few months that will meet everyone's needs.

Our next meeting in Exeter will be on Tuesday 24th November at the Exeter CVS, King William Street, from 10.00 - 12.00. Come along and join us for coffee and cakes, meet other parents and also find out what is happening within Children's Services.

On Friday 11th December we are meeting informally for lunch at the Imperial, New North Road in Exeter for a pre-Christmas lunch. Why not take a break from the Christmas shopping to join us? In January we are meeting in the evening of Wednesday 27th January to give those of you who find daytime meetings difficult to attend the chance to join us

PLEASE HELP!

Please take two minutes to complete the feedback for the Exeter Inclusive Play Park. Your help may make it easier to secure future funding for similar projects. Please go the PCV Website – Exeter Page and take the survey.

Joint Event

On 22nd September we held an information day in Tiverton entitled 'Moving On' The journey from Children's to Adult Services. Many parents attended to listen to the speakers who explained what to expect as our young people turn 18. A DVD of this event is nearly ready and anyone who would like a copy please contact Jeanette.

South Hams

2 Locality meetings have been held since the last County Forum, Dartmouth Tuesday 8th September 2009 and Kingsbridge Friday 11th September 2009

SPEAKERS

Sharon Letori - explained her new role as JAS (Joint Agency Service) support coordinator southern area

Claire Lloyd - Cerebra Research Unit at the Peninsula Medical School. Claire explained about the research for children and young people with special needs,

www.pcmd.ac.uk/cerebra

Cath Butland Parent Partnership

Cath informed the group that she is planning to attend all South Hams and West Devon PCV meetings, so she will be available to parents and carers during and after the meeting.

Issues raised by Parents Dartmouth

- John Parkes Unit proposed closure for respite and the distress this was causing, HP to raise issue at County Forum and feed back to parent.
- Concerns over Transition, HP informed group of the Transitions Event on 22nd September being organised by PCV and also of the magazine Progress was high lighted by Cath Butland
- New Step by Step group starting at Dartmouth Children's Centre, information given to parents

Issues raised by Parents Kingsbridge

- What are Direct Payments and how to go about receiving them
- Referrals if children are high functioning autistic and lack of support for parents of these children

Also the group had been made aware that the Totnes ADHD/Aspergers group had folded – Helen Has made contact with the previous organiser to offer to meet with the parents.

Next Planned Meeting

Wednesday 9th December Churchstow Kingsbridge

West Devon

West Devon Tavistock Locality was held on Thursday 8th October 2009

Issues raises

If a parent/ carers is the child's key worker would they be invited to County Panel meetings, this was in regards to the child changing schools. HP to contact Sharon Letori and to feedback response to parent. Is their a job description and entitlements for Parent Carer Key workers ?

Alternatives to GCSE's at Tavistock Community College – ASDAN Life Skills is now being used a TA from the college attended the meeting to discuss this.

Lack of Speech and Language in West Devon

What is CAF? Most of the parent carers attending where not clear on what this meant and it was explained

Training requested – Assertiveness and Preparing for meetings – HP to organize for future West Devon Locality meeting.

West Devon Children's Trust have requested Parent Carers Voice representative to attend their meeting, joint co-chairs Cathy Sharpe and Gillian Kurdziel have offered to fulfill this role.

Abby Buckley -Inclusions Officer consulted the group on a questionnaire 'Childcare Sufficiency Assessment' aimed initially at parents of children who attend special schools, the parent's feedback their views on the document.

Next meeting January 2010 at new venue Tavistock Football Club with Parent Partnership training on Preparing for Meetings Date to be confirmed

Teignbridge

3 Events have been held since last County

Locality meeting held – Newton Abbot - Tuesday 15th September 2009

Debbie Marshall Teignbridge Council –Debbie feedback to the group all the planning work that has been carried out to develop Bakers Park, with outline designs shown to the group for their comments. Debbie has worked with the group previously and more recently with one parent to incorporate idea for inclusive and accessible play. Some funding has now been secured.

The group discussed the plans, various equipment, surfaces access, difficulties with dogs in open spaces, seating. Really positive feedback, Debbie has completed a huge amount of work to incorporate parents ideas, suggestions into the planning designs with a desire to make play inclusive, for which the group are most grateful.

Issues raised by Parents

- Inequality of services for those families of children on the autistic spectrum
- No clear information on the procedures parents have to take to get access to services, direct payments – it seems that those who shout the loudest get!
- Parents did not know who their key worker is as the system seems very vague

Joint Teignbridge, SH & West Event - 2nd October 2009 – PCV Awareness and Sensory Processing Difficulties Workshop Buckfast Conference Centre

Over 40 parent carers attended the day - Jeanette Kemlo the County Chair outlined PCV, her passion for the voice of parent carers to be heard and the overall aims for the organization. Rosie North, Advanced Paediatric Occupational Therapist Integrated Children's Services South Devon NHS Devon, ran the workshop on Sensory Processing Difficulties; lunch followed allowing time to get to know other parent carers. Cath Butland from Parent Partnership and Cathy Hill Discplus where also on hand for parents to gain information.

Coffee Morning 3rd Nov.

Informal coffee morning at chairs home 5 parent carers attended

Date for next locality – 1st December at Court Farm Inn 11am – 1pm

Children's Trust Update

Ian Simmins was unable to attend the County Meeting but sent notes,he had attended 2 Children's Trust meetings and been involved in interviewing for the Commissioning Office for Health.

Discussion followed based around safe guarding children and child protection, JK feels that it is important for chairs to have an awareness of and that PCV should have a child protection / safe guarding children protocol. Gwen P said that there where guidelines already written and Sue Brealey Parent Partnership said that their training for Independent Parental Supporters covered this. Gwen sits on the Child Protection sub group

ACTION

JK & SB to link in with Gwen- via email regarding the Child protection Sub Group, protocols and appropriate training.

Parent Partnership Service Update

Sue Brealey updated the meeting on the recent developments within the service

The newly trained IPS (INDEPENDENT PARENTAL SUPPORT) workers have now started and maybe attending the PCV locality meetings. Parent Partnership workers have prioritised being available to attend PCV Locality meetings if it is not possible an IPS will attend.

ACTION – Sue to send JK a list of the IPS – JK to disseminate to locality chairs and development workers.

Confidentiality & Impartiality policy draft has been prepared and copy sent to JK for feedback from forums

ACTION – JK to look at and respond

There is a proposal to have a joint PPS and Choice Advisors Steering Group. This will be discussed at the CA Annual meeting Nov 30th and Terms of Reference discussed. Parent representation from the Forum will be requested.

Discussion on the newly appointed PSA ,Parent Support Advisors, their roles and how that interfaces with PPS and other parent support roles in schools. There is confusion with professionals, schools and parents, SB explained that PPS has some understanding of the differentiation and offered to provide input at forum meetings by request. JK wanted to know how to contact them.

ACTION

Pete Squires to contact Peter Chalkley Operations Manager Family Support to get a list of PSA and send copy to Sue and JK.

Sue advised that PPS has been asked to write a piece on Working with Parents (draft) for the new guidance for Devon Schools on SEN for the Learning Development Partnership. The guidance is still being compiled – JK requested a copy.

Discussion on CAF and if there is a guide, Sue B informed the meeting that Parent Partnership can support parents in applying for the CAF, completing the forms with them and support at TAC meetings.

ACTION

Cathy Hill to investigate to see if there is a guide to the CAF in existence.

Sue also high lighted a DCFS – DVD for 7 – 14 year olds which covers the issues of bullying for children with SEN. It is entitled 'Make them go Away' and is designed to raise awareness. Use the following link or type Make them Go Away dvd into google search engine.

<http://clients.mediaondemand.net/take1flv/dcsf/send/SEND.html>

BREAK

Contract Renewal

The contract extension has been agreed to the end of June 2010 and the tendering process for the new contract will start in January 2010, a number of issues need to be looked at to increase and enhance, initial discussions are beginning looking at options and a paper will be written internally to be discussed with PCV. Discussion followed

ACTION

Beryl to meet with Kate (Procurement Officer) to discuss time line and the share with JK and JL

PCV Finance

Julia Lock explained the financial end of contract, position which totally related to John Shaw's records.

Discussion on the Aiming High Money if the contract transfers there are arrangements in place to transfer if needed. JK is the named parent and would take on the responsibility if required.

CYPS update – John Shaw

Devon County Council has a new administration with Andrea Davis (Health and Social Care) and Christine Channon (schools & Learning) holding the portfolios.

John is attending overview and scrutiny committees to look at emotional health and wellbeing, specialist assessment centres, stepping stones, aiming high and transitions.

The local authority is facing budget issues being asked for 10% reductions and 4% efficiencies rolled out as 14% cuts John is putting together a case for CYPS as a front line service, looking at the aiming High National expectation of keeping the budget. – the impact is to become more efficient as commissioning authority.

The Children's Trust Council is now up and running.

Stepping Stones – is starting to impact on primary speech and language support units, autism and behavioural support and is moving to the next stage of specification.

There is close agreement at a site in North Devon near Barnstable to build a BESD Unit, which will be managed by Marland School

JAS is now to be know as Integrated Children Services

Introducing sustainable model all about THRIVE – whole school, whole family approach to supporting families of children with additional needs- pilot in north Devon and extension of social, emotional aspects of learning. Julie Ford is the co-ordinator and John will request an update for PCV

The post Ofsted Action Plan is now in place – it had been identified that Devon did not track children with additional needs very well – JS chairs CSET panel and has implemented pathways for children with additional needs and is bringing in systems.

AOB

Aiming High Money – JK bid submission was for £5K for a County Wide Conference in March 2010 and Localities to target areas of deprivation for PCV to direct support into - £500 per locality making sure that it is used to meet the requirements of the bid. Money needs to be used by the end of March 2010. The aim of these approaches is to get more parents involved in consultation via PCV, especially where the needs are likely to be greatest.

Schools SEN Budget – a parent has asked 'how schools spend their SEN budget'. – advice given that the best way forward was to ask their schools SEN Governor, asking if the school had also completed their SEN Framework document – to find out how much each school receives there is a published list available on the Devon County Council website

JK has sent a letter to Ofsted offering PCV to support them in SEN training, she has received a reply saying that they will keep the offer on file

Gwen and John – performance monitoring meeting with provider services – specifications against performance management terms of reference which Gwen has written

ACTION Gwen to send copy to JK to share at County

The next meeting will be Wednesday 13th January 2010
At the Fisherman's Cot, Bickleigh.