

Case Study: Effective Partnership Working in Gloucestershire

This case study illustrates how close partnership working between local services in Gloucestershire helped to improve the way Education, Health and Care plans are developed – involving children, young people and families to make sure plans are ‘person centred’ and focused on the outcomes the child or young person wants to achieve.

The partners

- Head of SEN Gloucestershire County Council SEN team (Tim)
- Carers Gloucestershire: delivering Independent Support and the Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Advice & Support service to parents and carer across Gloucestershire. (Lisa- Independent Support Coordinator).
- Gloucestershire County Council Social Care Screening Team (Chloe - Lead Professional)
- Physical Inclusion Network Gloucestershire (PING) – a user-lead network linking physically disabled people and services in Gloucestershire. PING provide direct 1:1 Independent Support to young people (Vicci -Independent Supporter)

How it works: ‘Robbie’

Robbie has a statement of SEN. Chloe from the local authority’s social care screening team undertook a screening assessment with Robbie’s mum during which she asked her how she felt about the transfer review process for moving children and young people with statements of SEN to Education, Health and Care plans. Robbie’s mum explained that she was very confused about the whole process and had not looked at the paperwork, informing Chloe that she had difficulties within the family and that keeping up with letters and paperwork were difficult for her as she wasn’t confident with her reading and writing. Chloe asked if she would like some support with the process and she agreed. During the conversation Chloe also asked if ‘Robbie’ would like support to be involved in planning his own outcomes and completing a ‘my profile’. Robbie’s mum agreed.

Lisa Davenport, the Independent Support Coordinator, visited Robbie’s mum and dad at home, completed a Family Contribution Form and collected their views. This was then sent to the SEN caseworker for a draft Education, Health and Care plan. Lisa also made a referral to Vicci Livingstone from PING to support Robbie in giving his views. Robbie chose to have a key role in co-chairing his review meeting and was given guidance in reading out his views and desired outcomes previously compiled with Vicci.

Following the meeting Lisa Davenport visited Robbie and his mum at home. They read through the draft plan and a few minor amendments were made. A final plan was then issued. Robbie and his mum were both pleased that a plan was in place with clear outcomes.

Robbie now understands the function of an Education Health and Care Plan. He feels ownership of his plan. Robbie and his mum are happy to have had their views heard and recorded. Robbie's mum feels fully supported and satisfied that Robbie would now be receiving support in school to increase his independence skills. She is a willing participant in Robbie's plan and is now supporting him to increase his independence at home consistent with how he is supported at school.

Without good partnership between local services these positive outcomes would not have been achieved.