



**Early Support and Independent Support Board Meeting
Thursday 30 April 2015, 2 – 5 pm**

Present:

Kevin Williams (KW) – Chair
Patrick Agius (PA) - Department for Education
Christine Lenehan (CL) - Council for Disabled Children
Martin Bull (MB) - Independent Support, Council for Disabled Children
Jill Wellings (JW) - Wolverhampton Council
Liz Hobson (LH) - Local Government Association
Maureen Morris (MM) - National Network of Parent Carer Forums
Gillian Granville - NDTi
Kathrine Everett - Orchard Hill College
Barney Angliss - School SENCO, Surrey
Peter Ellis (PE) - Richard House Children's Hospice

Apologies:

Amanda Harvey (AH) - Council for Disabled Children
Nic Crosby (In Control)
Chris Easton (CE) - NHS England

Retired:

Toby Price and Caroline Allen (replaced by Kathrine Everett).

2. Approval of previous meeting minute

Minutes approved.

4. Matters Arising

See AOB.

3. Review of Action Log items

All actions closed apart from the hosting of Early Support resources which is an ongoing action.

5. NDTi interim finding from evaluation

- Variety of models of delivery are starting to emerge from early findings
- Some lack of clarity continues in places on what Independent Support actually is
- High anxiety being expressed by some IS agencies taking part in fieldwork – a fear of an OFSTED style inspection
- Good response rate to the first evaluation survey with selected IS agencies and LA SEND leads
- Good efforts being made to ensure the evaluation captures the young people's voices

The Board said it would be vital to ensure that outcomes of the NDTi fieldwork can be shared as early as possible with Martin Bull so to influence and improve upon IS service delivery. A request also for feedback to the Board by July 2015 was suggested.

Action - NDTi to look at the evaluation timetable and say when they can most effectively feed in 'live'

Action – NDTi to ensure diversity is reflected in the fieldwork

Action – CDC to put theory of change on website, with modified language for public consumption

6. Independent Support Phase 1: end of year achievements

MB shared the challenges and lessons learnt from Phase 1.

It was strongly felt by the board that this level of local and national intelligence is extremely informative and part of the findings should be feedback to others.

Board discussed what the best avenues are for disseminating this information, option include;

- External Implementation Board
- Involve the LGA and other government groups
- SRP to share with DBOT
- NNPCF
- Health Networks

Other useful sources of information include;

- IASS Network benchmarking survey
- Map of colleges who are SEN grant holders

Action – Board approved MB request to develop learning sets to help IS agencies improve upon their communications with young people to encourage better engagement and uptake

Action – MB to edit Phase 1 report into a suitable format for sharing externally

7. Independent Support Phase 2: Update

General positive feedback on achievements to procure Phase 2. Board felt that the introduction of paying for group work by IS agencies will offer a great solution to getting to children in mainstream education. However, we need to still be aware that there may still be a large number of young people needing support after March 2016.

MB flagged the potential concerns and risks around the payment by results approach, highlighting;

- That some organisations may feel restrained and unable to respond to demand early in the year
- Smaller organisations may struggle with cash flow if, due to factors beyond their control, referrals are slow to come in.

In support of this PA stated that it would be possible to vary the DfE payment schedule to match demand if this helped the flow of support being provided.

8. Early Support: Update on closure of programme

The Board agreed that as part of the review of Early Support it is important to think about what would be done differently if such a programme were to happen again.

ES resources are now on a dedicated part of the CDC website.

Keyworking will build on the principles of Early Support and move this work forward.

MB explained the complexities supporting the app when there was no longer money/resources to develop or maintain the app. A possible solution being to tender the app as a commercial enterprise.

PA stated that as this is a commercial decision it is beyond the remit of the board and the decision should be taken by CDC

Action – JW to gather feedback on app from Changing Lives
Action – MB to share with Board members the final ES report which was delivered to DfE in April 2015

9. Phase 1 and building of Phase 2: Lessons learnt.

Covered in item no. 6 & 7

10. Independent Support: future look post March 2016

Moving forward, it was also agreed that it was essential to start thinking about sustainability, a future and exit strategy. Decision to proceed needs to be made by September 2015 which will require evidence from both CDC and NDTi. This will be revisited at the June Board.

Action – MB to develop scenarios with proposals

11. AOB

Next Board meeting will take place on 12 June 2015 and to start at 1pm-3pm. Lunch will be provided from 12.30pm