

Independent Support Board Meeting Wednesday 02 August 2017, 11am – 4 pm

Present:

Kevin Williams (KW) - Chair
Maureen Morris (MM) - National Network of Parent Carer Forums
Martin Bull (MB) - Independent Support, Council for Disabled Children
Dan Ellitts (DE) - Independent Support, Council for Disabled Children
Christine Lenehan (CL) - Council for Disabled Children
Daisy Russell (DR) - Information advice and support services network, Council for Disabled Children
Elaine Baulcombe (EB) SEND Advisor, Department for Education
Barney Angliss (BA) – SENCO consultant, Surrey
Jack Welch (JW) – Freelance
Clive Harris (CH) – Local Government Association
Raquel Costa (RC) - Independent Support, Council for Disabled Children
Natalie Naraine (NN) - Independent Support, Council for Disabled Children

Apologies:

Kathrine Everett (KE) - Orchard Hill College
Anand Shukla (AS) – Brightside Trust
Patrick Agius (PA) - Department for Education
Sue North (SN) -NHS England
Jill Wellings (JW) - Wolverhampton Council
Rebecca Young (RY) – NUS
Janet Leach (JL) – Enfield Council

Approval of previous minutes

The IS Board approved the previous minutes 30/03/17

1. Regional workshops overview

NN and MB presented an overview of the recent programme of IS Manager, the key points were:

- 6 workshops in 3 weeks across 5 regions.
- 233 attendees with less than 20% dropout rate.
- 60 LA SEND leads attended – Team developed a database of all LA SEND leads.
- Slides sent to all SEND managers, even those who didn't attend.
- Feedback was extremely positive with attendees finding the exit planning section particularly useful.

Board discussed whether in future this could be done as a webinar although technology for many may be an issue.

2. Q1 programme update

MB presented a summary of Q1 the points being;

- The number of those receiving support remains on target for this point in the year and shows an increase from Q4 of last year.
- Service user diversity data collected had slightly lower return rates that anticipated but broadly reflected national averages.

- Workforce diversity data showed a predominantly white British workforce.
- Two animations published in Q1 which have received large numbers of views online and have been shared widely – feedback very positive.
- Challenges raised in Q1 reports remain consistent with those previously raised with the addition of; EHCP drafting being outsourced, LA work volume (quality over quantity in terms of plans), changes in plan format.
- Caroline Bennet is currently producing guidance/resource on post 16 for circulation – will be presented at next Board.

Action – MB to compare diversity data collected by DfE to IS data to present at next Board.

Board were clear that guidance will need to be provided by DfE on what will happen to young people whose statements have not been turned into plans by April 2018.

Programme outputs

Number of 1:1 cases supported across Q1 – 10,850

Of which:

- Supporting parent/carer – 9,292
- Supporting young people – 771
- Supporting young people accompanied by parent/carer – 787
- Participants in group work activity 5,832

Workforce survey

233 responses across IS Agencies and IAS Services. Feedback was positive and there was an overall feeling that IS will still be needed post March 2018. Organisations were also asked what areas they felt they needed additional training in, there were;

- IS core refresher sessions
- Key Working
- Annual reviews
- Law and legislation
- Personal budgets
- Supporting 19-25

Action – MB and DR to discuss collaboration on Personal Budgets training.

Plans for Q2

MB outlined the highlights of what is planned across the programme for Quarter 2;

- Cohort 13 of the IS core training programme.
- Development of new training resources.
- Evaluation work (see evaluation notes below).
- Exit planning.
- On-going support for contracted organisations.

3. Evaluation

MB tabled plans for use of designated funding for evaluation within this financial year, the key elements being;

- Impact assessments in areas where effective partnership working has been demonstrated
- Impact assessment on organisations who run a suite of services.
- Board thought that it was important to reflect on programme wide learning to include what does not work as well as what did, highlights the characteristics of both elements.

Board agreed with MBs proposals and MB to seek permission from the funder to proceed.

4. New Minister

CL gave brief overview of the new Minister;

- He has expressed an enthusiasm for learning about SEND.
- Further discussed with sector (including CL) and minister due in Autumn.

5. Exit and Legacy planning

MB outlined that the key elements to effective exit planning;

- Keeping people informed and engaged.
- Exiting is a process rather than a point in time.
- It will be key to set a timeline for the process.
- The IS team will be addressing some of the questions and processes relating to exiting across August and September.

6. Future Meeting dates

The following dates were proposed

- 1 November 2017
- 14 February 2018
- 18 April 2018

7. AOB

No issues raised in AOB.

Meeting closed.

Summary of Actions

Actions	Person Responsible
User and workforce diversity MB to compare diversity data collected by DfE to IS data to present at next Board.	MB
Additional training MB and DR to discuss collaboration on Personal Budgets training.	MB/DR
Evaluation MB to present details of the evaluation progress at next Board.	MB