

Independent Support Board Meeting Thursday 10 September 2015, 12.30 – 3pm

Present:

Maureen Morris (MM) - National Network of Parent Carer Forums (Deputy Chair)
Patrick Agius (PA) - Department for Education
Kevin Williams (KW) – Chair
Clive Harris (CH) – NHS England
Jill Wellings (JW) - Wolverhampton Council
Jan Miller (JM) - Evaluation Lead, Department for Education
Kathrine Everett - Orchard Hill College
Barney Angliss - School SENCO, Surrey
Martin Bull (MB) - Independent Support, Council for Disabled Children
Dan Ellitts (DE) - Independent Support, Council for Disabled Children
Amanda Harvey (AH) - Assistant Director, Council for Disabled Children

Guests

Pam Shaw (PS) – Senior Participation Officer, Council for Disabled Children
Debbie Smith (DS) – Campaigns Manager, Council for Disabled Children
Emma Hughes (EH) - Young Person's Engagement Officer
Grace Hawkins (GH) - Young Person's Engagement Officer
Eve Blakely (EB) - Young Person's Engagement Officer

Apologies:

Christine Lenehan (CL) - Council for Disabled Children
Peter Ellis (PE) - Richard House Children's Hospice

Approval of previous meeting minute

This meeting was chaired by Maureen Morris on behalf of Kevin Williams

Minutes approved.

Review of Action Log items

All actions closed.

Presentation

Eve, Emma and Grace, 3 young person's engagement officers (YPEO's) from Core Assets gave a short presentation around the work they have been doing with independent support. They had identified 6 initial areas to focus on; resources, website, social media, outreach work, articles and activities.

1. Resources –

The current leaflets had been adapted to be more appealing to young people as young people can request an Independent Supporter themselves. The Council for Disabled Children information document for young people had also been revised to be presented in a way to engage young people.

2. Website-

The YPEO's worked with Super Dreams to review the Core Assets IS website and make it more young person friendly and requested for a page to be dedicated to young people and their stories/experiences of the IS service.

3. Social Media –

A Facebook page was created as a quick and powerful tool to share information and promote services.

4. Articles & Newsletters -

Articles were created to be distributed to local newspapers across the 27 local authorities. A bi-monthly newsletter had been produced.

5. Outreach Work -

The YPEO's have been attending a number of events and youth groups in their local areas to increase engagement.

6. Video

The YPEO's played a short video clip to the board, which included clips of a young persons activity session and an interview with a young person and parent who received independent support.

The Board was very thankful to Eve, Emma and Grace for their contribution.

Overview of IS funded training: EHC planning with young people

PS presented to the board a training session she had devised to gather any feedback and input from the group. The training is aimed at Independent Supporters around how to engage & and empower young people to participate in their EHC plan.

PS went through some of the activities that she will be using for the session and taking on some of the activities used for EPIC. The training will build in discussions around the challenges Independent Supporters face working with young people. The training will be co-delivered with young people.

There will be two training session's one held in London on the 15th October with 24 participants and the other held in Manchester on the 22nd October with 20 participants.

The board all agreed they were happy with the training proposal.

April – July reporting headliners

MB reported excellent progress had been made with the programme RAG rated as green across all the KPIs.

In this period service providers have received an impressive 9,445 referrals of which 2,139 EHC plans are reported as being completed. The referral numbers reported in this period are higher than the numbers reported across Phase 1.

A large number of responses have been received from the Quality Assurance and the IS training survey. MB shared with the board the latest feedback from the surveys which remains positive. 66 case studies have now been published on the CDC website illustrating good practice and roll out for the training continues with cohort 7 taking place next week.

Board review of the revised interim evaluation report

AH asked the board to give their views on the interim report and questions which were circulated prior to the meeting. After a discussion the Board asked that the following points to be shared back to NDTi to take forward:

1. Timescales & evidence

The board would like the report to include research evidence up until the end of September 2015 – so phase 3. We also thought that it would be helpful to refer to ‘stages’ of the evaluation rather than ‘phases’ so not to confuse IS agencies with the programme delivery. There was a lack of sense that this is the start of a longer piece of work so reflecting the evidence gathered to the end of stage 3 and setting it out over the stages would be helpful in reflecting practice and the progression of the programme.

2. Reorder the report to reflect the programme timeline

The board felt that the current layout of the report can be confusing and that laying out the report to reflect the programme timeline would be helpful, and also reflect the progression that the programme has made. It is, of course, healthy to acknowledge challenges, it is also important to reflect how those challenges have been addressed and the lesson learnt against the timeline.

3. Context & executive summary

It was felt that the context for the IS programme needed reflecting more clearly. There was evidence and build data used to inform the programme at the build stage and this needs to be acknowledged. It is also important to acknowledge that any issues raised are being addressed by the IS programme as it continues.

The board would also like the report to have an executive summary, highlighting the key findings so far from the evaluation.

4. Data

The data needs to relate to the timeline of the programme in order to portray a clear picture of progression.

It is important that the statistics are presented in a consistent way, for example they are currently shown in percentages and some in other formats.

As noted above, the report should include up-to-date data returns that have been provided by the IS programme team.

5. Findings

The findings and learning from the evaluation need to be pulled out more so readily identifiable in the report (along with any recommendations).

To conclude, the IS board all agreed the report should not be published in its current form. DS and JM would be liaising and reporting back to NDTI.

Overview of payment by results

DE presented to the group a paper around how the payment by results process would work. The payment by results process will be introduced for IS Agencies from the November reporting period onwards.

There was a degree of anxiety amongst contracted organisations around the process. A ‘living’ Q&A document has been circulated to all agencies, to which any questions will be added and recirculated to keep all organisations informed.

A revised data collection template has been circulated, containing prepopulated sections taken from organisation’s contracts and clarification templates.

KW raised what would happen to suppliers who achieved their quota early is that still a big risk, DE



AOB

The board discussed if meetings should take place past March, the group all agreed to discuss this further at the December board meeting.

Closed