

## SEND Strategy Governance Board Notes

Thursday 21 Sept 2023, 10:30 - 13:00

The View Hotel, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN23 8EJ.

Chair: Alison Jeffery (AJ) / Notes: Tammy Frichot (TF)

**Attendees:** Councillor Bob Standley (CBS), Jessica Stubbings (JS), Nathan Caine (NC), Antony Julyan (AJu), Sally Polanski (SP), Kirsty Prawanna (KP), Caroline Tozzi (CT), Fenella Potterton (FP), Louise Moor (LM), Helen Diplock (HD), Alex (A) (young person), Alice Tigwell (AT)(supporting young ambassador member), Jo Nash (JN), Emma Buggy (EB), Bethan Twigg (BT), Matthew Jenkinson (MJ), Holly Riley-Saxby (HR-S) part meeting, Denise Banks (DB)

**Apologies:** Elizabeth Funge (EF), Ann-Marie Waite (AMW), Chrys Poullikas (CP), Sam (S)(young person), Kirsty Prawanna (KP), Sam Lawson (SL)

### 1. Welcome and introductions

AJ welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the Board members introduced themselves. Fenella Potterton is now representing East Sussex College Group, Denise Banks joined alongside HR-S as a representative from the East Sussex parent/Carer Forum (ESPCF). AJ explained that in the interim, whilst recruiting a new independent chair, AJ would be chairing this meeting.

Recruitment for an independent chair was not successful, this will go out to advert again.

### 2. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated ahead of this meeting. The Board did not raise any issues or amendments to the minutes.

### 3. Theme highlight reports and Data Dashboard

JS presented a summary of the Theme Highlight Reports and the Data Dashboard.

The presentation included a short update on the progress of each theme and offered the Board an opportunity to discuss the data on success measures for each theme.

### ***Theme 1 - My voice is heard and acted upon (participation)***

**Discussion point for the Board:** *How might we capture and report on the impact of coproduction workstreams involving children, young people and families that is already happening or planned by health and care partners?*

Members of the Board discussed the data presented for the success measures. It was noted that there is a new contract with Health Watch which includes hearing the views of young people.

*Specific questions were raised about some aspects of data for follow-up across all themes. These have been collated at the end of this document.*

**ACTION:** separate meetings to take place between each theme leads and a representative from the ESPCF.

### **Theme 2 - My optimum health and well-being are supported (physical and mental health)**

**Discussion point for the Board:** *Deep Dive on Theme 2 planned for December meeting - what are the key areas the Board would like this to focus on?*

Members of the Board discussed the data presented for the success measures. There were some specific questions about the data as below:

Discussion was had about whether we could include data on the take up of the Disability annual health checks for 14-17 year olds, which latest data shows is 85%. CT is working on improving take up across East Sussex.

**ACTION:** The Board agreed to explore the feasibility of incorporating annual health check data as part of the dashboard.

The i-go data is a source of identification of children with disabilities, registered users of i-go are increasing. Discussion was had about how we can measure participation in activities, the new app being developed should be able to do this.

The Board discussed the support for children and young people with mental health needs and the access to this support. It was recognised that there continues to be long waiting lists and the challenges this presents.

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) provide access to just over 50% of schools within East Sussex. MHSTs are undertaking a comprehensive review to identify opportunities for enhanced support in schools, with a particular focus on early identification. They are engaging in ongoing discussion to better manage the transition process and support children and young people effectively during this critical phase.

A mentioned there was no support or the current support isn't consistent in schools. NC reported that we have increased our emotional health and wellbeing advisors and targeting schools that don't have Mental Health Support Teams with a focus on supporting pupils at transition points.

HR-S asked about how the impact of the MHSTs is assessed in schools. JS confirmed that there is a comprehensive set of Key Performance Indicators and further detail on these can be shared as part of the Deep Dive in December's Board Meeting.

A had used the Worry Buster toolkit at school and proposed primary schools should be sharing with secondary schools. AJ mentioned that in some schools they train children and young people to be mediators which is an option for schools to consider. The importance of understanding what support children and young people require was emphasised.

AT brought to the attention of the Board that a new children and young people's survey has been developed with the involvement of the SEND young ambassadors. The survey is specifically designed for children and young people with SEND and it was suggested this could be piloted with a few schools as well as being sent out directly to children and young people. A reported that there had been a class survey to rename a tutor group and he highlighted the importance on acting on the pupil voice once this has been sought.

#### **Theme 4 - I belong and feel valued for who I am (inclusion and belonging)**

**Discussion point for the Board:** *Planned activity is on track but impact not yet being evidenced in all the success measures.*

During the discussion, HS-R proposed a change in the way annual review meetings are organised. She suggested that instead of holding meetings as scheduled, they should be offered to parents. This adjustment in approach reflects an openness to accommodate parental preferences and availability.

As part of the local authority's new attendance duties, we will have new attendance and exclusion reports available. These reports will be available for the next meeting.

Discussion was had about the correlation between attendance and mental health, and how attendance issues are linked to emotionally based school avoidance. It was noted that the local authority does not have access to attendance data for independent schools. JN highlighted that when a social care referral comes in the attendance data is now available for social care to look at which is a positive move.

#### **Theme 5 - I am supported to develop and achieve my goals (progress and achievement)**

**Discussion point for the Board:** *Enhanced data reporting is available on the education, employment and education status of 16-25 years olds, including mapping of providers/home location. Data to be reviewed further in December by the SEND Strategy Implementation Group. Further engagement with East Sussex College Group through the Board would support identification of other actions for this theme.*

There is an identified gap in vocational provision with children and young people with SEND. This gap affects the progression of young people into education post-16.

Success measure 5.3 - the data shows a low % of young people in education, employment or training. It is important to note that there are high numbers of young people post-18 where we do not know their destination, as tracking is only statutory for 16-18 years old and has previously only been done for those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) until

they reach 18 years old. We are now tracking young people with EHCPs between 18-25 years old. This tracking is done by our Youth Employability Service.

FP updated the board that the East Sussex College Group have a working party to look specifically how they support children and young people with SEND using 1:1 career support and external support.

A - Suggested that his school had not offered any careers advice. The Careers Hub is funded nationally to work with schools to provide a range of careers advice.

**ACTION:** JS to feedback A's comments to the Careers Hub Team.

## 4. Deep Dive – Theme 3

JN and AJu presented Theme 3: I feel confident and secure (safety and security).

**ACTION:** AJu to confirm that there were no responses less than 'good' or 'outstanding' for the Short Breaks evaluations, but that there was an option to express a different opinion.

The ESPCF representative requested a more detailed take up of the short breaks, by provider and type of short breaks.

**ACTION:** AJu to confirm the proportion of i-go cards issued to parents as opposed to children and young people.

Key points from the presentation on overnight respite care:

- There are currently 16 children and young people on the waiting list for overnight respite care.
- Overnight respite care refers to a service where caregivers or parents of children and young people with special needs receive a temporary break or relief by having their children and young people stay at a specialised residential facility.
- The key task is to ensure that each of these 16 children and young people waiting for overnight respite are matched with the appropriate and necessary resources.
- children and young people who are waiting for respite care have other provisions in place.

JN explained the work being undertaken by IMPOWER - The Valuing Care approach is a method used to assess and determine the appropriate funding and support for individuals with complex care needs. The project involves, families, providers and professionals. The pressures in the current system include:

- There are more children and young people coming into care and fewer leaving care.

- The proportion of children and young people living in their own homes and foster care is decreasing.
- The proportion of children and young people living in residential care is increasing rather than foster care.

## 5. Deep Dive feedback and Board actions

The IMPOWER lead is Kathy Marriott and AJ has input. DB expressed an interest and would like to be involved as this develops.

## 6. AOB

East Sussex are part of the Department for Education's 'SEND & AP Change Programme' which will be testing out some of the proposals from the Department's SEND and Alternative Provision Implementation Plan. Further updates will be provided at future meetings, and it will be a standing item on the SSGB agenda.

The next Board meeting will be held virtually via Teams on **Thursday 7 December - 10.30 am - 1.00 pm.**

It was agreed that the position of Independent Chair of the Board would be re-advertised, and the Board would use their networks to circulate this, including wider networks.

**ACTION:** All Board members to circulate advert where appropriate.

### Data queries for follow-up

Theme 1

**ACTION:** Success measure 1.1 - BT to confirm the number of replies as well as the %.

**ACTION:** Success measure 1.2 - BT to check the reason for the spike in the graph.

Theme 2

**ACTION:** Success measure 2.1 - BT to find out what does the range of weeks is for waiting times shown in the 26 weeks+ value.

**ACTION:** Success measure 2.1 - BT to find out what does the range of weeks is for waiting times shown in the 26 weeks+ value.

Theme 4

**ACTION:** Success measure 4.3 - BT to check the accuracy of the latest data on EHCPs showing a significant increase in mainstream schools being named.

Theme 5

**ACTION:** Theme 5 graphs/data will be reviewed and updated by the data team.