

Working Together Group

Friday 18th October 2019

Kelvin Barlow – Senior Manager, Complex Needs & Transition

Sarah Bolton – Inclusion Coordinator

Margaret Devonald Morris - Hywel Dda UHB - SDM/SN Community Children's Services
Parents

1. Family Advisory Service

Kelvin explained Wayne and Mel are due to leave Mencap. This will leave a gap in the 'Family Advisory Service' until someone new is appointed. This means a small amount of money is available to do something. Kelvin would want this to directly benefit parents and it would need to be spent prior to April 2020. Agreed for Parents/Carer's to have a think about how this could be spent and confirm during the next meeting in November.

Parents suggested they're involved with the recruitment of the Mencap Officer in future, if possible.

The continued challenge has been in relation 'communication' and ensuring the minutes from the Working Together Group are shared and available publically. All agreed following recruitment, the focus should be to develop and utilise HAIPAC online and via facebook and other social media as the preferred method for sharing information. Jo agreed to share the minutes via Crossroads Sir Gar website.

The group agreed that Working Together would remain 'closed', however if a parent was interested joining, they would be welcome to attend. Parents emphasised they were keen for the group to remain as a working group focusing on different topics.

2. Health

Margaret Devonald Morris was welcomed at the meeting provided background and purpose of the group, including some of the work completed since formation. Margaret thanked the group for inviting her and agreed it is important for Health to have an interface with Parent/Carer's.

Parents had opportunity to share some of their concerns and thoughts relating to the Health Board. These included:

- Lack of Paediatricians in the area (including appointments)

Margaret acknowledged there is a shortage of Paediatricians. It has been difficult to recruit and the Health Board are looking at different methods to address, this includes a training programme for Dr's and linking in with Swansea Health Board. Margaret understood the frustration parents had and the impact the inconsistency must have on Parent and Child.

- Communication with the Health Board -knowing who to contact to discuss their child's medical needs, medication etc.
- Parents agreed in the past the Multi-Disciplinary Meetings worked, it was opportunity for all professionals to discuss the needs of the Child with parent/carer present. These no longer took place. Not all professionals attend Annual Reviews.

Margaret confirmed the multi-disciplinary meetings referred to were part of the Child Development Team and normally stop when the Child goes to school.

- Lack of monitoring, when Child has severe health issues.
- GP appointments for Children with Complex Needs, restricted to discuss one problem. Often doesn't allow enough time, which causes anxiety to parent and child.
- More services should be delivered at Elizabeth Williams's clinic, rather than have to get to Carmarthen.
- Time it takes for Paediatrician's to write up the report. This can impact application for benefits or provide proof to DWP when required.

All parents felt it was important to have clear pathways. Margaret explained the Health Board are looking at developing their pathways. It was agreed in the next meeting, we would undertake a mapping activity in respect of local health services.

Margaret thanked everyone for raising their concerns and issues. Margaret would like to continue coming to the working together group and where appropriate would try to establish the correct person who could come along to work through the issues raised. It was agreed health workshops would be welcomed by parent/carers.

3. TIC Award (Transform, Innovate and Change programme)

The collaborative work Parents/Local Authority have completed to achieve the contract for Afterschool and Holiday Provision has been put forward for a TIC Award. The application has been successful reach the final stages and the next step is for short film to be made. Parents from the sub group will be involved and will attend the ceremony on the 5th December.

4. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 15th November 2019, Felinfoel Recreation Centre, 10am