

DERBY'S SEND LOCAL OFFER

Local Offer User Group Notes

Meeting Tuesday 14 March 11.30am-1.00pm

Attendees:

Amanda Allsop (AA), Peter Cades (PC), Sally Morton (SM),
Charlotte Dolman (CD), Dan Marson (DM).

Actions from previous meeting were confirmed.

Summary of discussion

DM disclosed that Short Breaks is to receive additional funding for targeted work.

Main topic:

Review of questions asked of schools to support children and young people through phase transfers

AA relayed how difficult it was to find information or speak to anyone. The pandemic made this harder. An open day/evening would be useful.

PC saw reluctance by some schools to engage. SENCO's from two different schools displayed very different approaches. Both mainstream schools were disappointing. Landau and Holbrook were discussed.

DM asked how did the Holbrook transition work?

PC said he didn't choose the school, he was told his child was going to Holbrook. In this case, there was no preparation because of his child's particular needs, being non-verbal. PC did go to a meeting with a look round the school. In mainstream this doesn't happen. There's a queue to see the SENCO.

AA would like open evenings with no other pupils there, need to do this in special schools too.

DM explained that all the special schools do it differently. St Martins and Ivy House are visually very impressive with great staff. How do we build confidence, so needs are met in mainstream?

PC said invest in special units.

DM said Derby city's ENCPs are heavily invested, above the national average and statistical neighbours.

PC asked the average of EHCP.



PC said EHCP was more about education than the health and care element.

DM said there is a lot of parental fear around the Year 6 transition phase.

AA just the physical environment is overwhelming but an open evening for the SEND pupils and parents only would be beneficial.

DM asked why Year 6 is a more fearful transfer in Derby than anywhere else?

AA mainstream schools need to invite people in to look round.

DM at school or somewhere else?

AA need to see the school.

PC however SENCO's aren't always available.

DM Some schools become 'magnet' schools where the percentage of children on the SEND register or with an EHCP is high.

DM discussed Home to School Travel issues with pupils travelling too far, how the birth rate is lowering and within 5 years there will be 700 empty places in primary schools.

AA could these places be within existing schools.

Special school hubs

DM revealed the idea of creating a special hub with an existing mainstream school - a SEND Hub.

PC warned of the fear of isolation, Hubs need to be integrated.

DM agreed the need for inclusion. There would be specific models for each school.

AA like an enhanced resource that isn't separate.

PC scope for being part of the mainstream and part of a special unit.

AA there would be a need to link primary and secondary because right now primary feels like a holding unit.

DM agreed whether mainstream primary going to special secondary, pupils need prep for secondary.

PC quoted someone talking about 60% achieved STATS but what about the other 40%.

AA also there's a need for teacher consistency for SEND pupils.

DM acknowledged conversation had steered away from topic but all agreed the discussion proved useful.

AA flagged the consistency of relationships, whether sport is good or bad, unstructured times, i.e. breaktimes and that achievements is not just academic but the practical things.

PC How do schools manage targets, the management of the expectation of achievement.



DM unfortunately schools are results driven, it is their measure of success.

PC revealed that at Ivy House there are around 80 EHCPs and one or two of those are sitting GCSE's.

DM at present EHCP's not robust enough to demonstrate outcomes, they need more measurables to show individual progression and achievements.

AA pupils so contained in primary school, what are they expected to achieve in secondary.

DM what does success look like, giving an example of a pupil who'd moved from special school to mainstream at a later date, teachers couldn't tell the pupil had previously been in a special school.

PC highlighted the importance of young people's voice in decision making.

DM talked about the possibility of dual registration across schools.

PC during transition could pupils try out schools.

AA agreed as long as there was academic capability.

DM help to break the exclusion cycle to create a more blended learning approach across schools - a graduated offer.

PC flagged possible issues with council run schools and trust run schools.

DM agreed an example being school uniforms.

PC agreed on the whole, an excellent idea.

AA hoped this would not be just for inner city schools but have wider reach. Otherwise a brilliant idea.

AA asked what about year 11.

DM believed the principle could be extended to post-16, for example, St Martins and Derby College have a post-16 hub.

PC would post-19 be the same.

Other matters discussed

PC revealed he is a director at Disability Direct which provides support to parents applying for EHCPs.

DM offered support to Disability Direct staff if there were any training requirements.

PC said he would share the name of the lady contact. **ACTION: PC**

CD asked about any awareness of a new Facebook group called Derby SEND Alliance.

SM said yes she knew of them and had shared it amongst other private groups.

PC asked to for a link to Derby SEND Alliance. **ACTION: CD - DONE**



AA asked about how the number of hours of sport is decided and why they are less than education. **ACTION: DM**

AA would like to know how Pupil Premium Plus is spent. What is the 'plus' bit. Needs to be more visible, published, showing separate budgets.

PC mentioned good experience with the Virtual school.

It was agreed Short Breaks would be the topic of discussion.

SM emailed suggesting topic for discussion: Health and social care for young people with SEND. **ACTION: CD**

AOB

None

Next meeting:

- CD to look at dates for the next meeting.
- Short Breaks

