

**CaPa Participation Group
Steering Group Meeting**

Monday 4th February 2019 6.30pm-8.30pm

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Introductions	<p>Attendees: Ashley (chair), Carrie and Sam (mins)</p> <p>Apologies: Charlie, Tina, Thea, Emilia, Jane</p> <p>Rachel Clotworthy was invited to the meeting but was unable to attend due to a hospital appointment – Ashley will catch up with Rachel at the Stanford Le Hope drop in on 7th February in order to discuss her joining the steering group</p> <p>Cllr James Halden (Portfolio holder for Education and Health), Rory Patterson (Corporate Director of Children’s Services in Thurrock) and Malcolm Taylor (EP) joined the meeting at 7pm.</p>	
Last Meeting Minutes	Minutes taken as read and agreed	
SEN Parent and Carer survey	<p>CaPa compiled a SEN survey asking for parents and carers feedback on the following questions covering education, social care and health (yes, no or n/a):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Is your child in mainstream/special school/not in school/other 2 Have you experienced good support from professionals 3 Have you found it easy to contact professionals 4 Do you feel you were listened to by professionals 5 Were your views considered by professionals 6 Did you feel you fully understood your options 7 Did you feel you knew what the outcomes would be 8 Do you have any suggestions for improvements 9 Any other feedback <p>As at the time of the meeting there were 57 responses to the survey with 40 responses of suggestions for improvements and 17 responses with feedback.</p> <p>The survey will be separated into themes in order to feedback to professionals, schools, parents and inform the strategic SEND documents.</p> <p>The survey will also be fed back to the Ofsted/CQC inspectors when Thurrock gets the SEND Inspection.</p>	Sam to put into themes
Feedback from SEN caseworker interviews	<p>Tina was unable to attend due to her son being ill so no feedback.</p> <p>Carrie agreed to attend a future social worker interview panel with Ashley so that going forward she can gain the confidence to be involved on any interview panels CaPa are invited to.</p>	
Feedback from Drop-In’s & Support Groups	<p>Drop-in’s are busy with lots of parents needing support from PATT and then joining the CaPa database and getting peer support.</p> <p>Mo has put together a poster outlining all the weekly drop in’s which includes some workshops going forward. Ashley confirmed that Mo is running these workshops. Sam will circulate this.</p> <p>Drop-in’s are currently being held in Grays, Tilbury, Ockendon, Purfleet and Stanford Le Hope.</p> <p>The SEN café held fortnightly on Wednesdays in Grays from 4pm-6pm - attendance</p>	Sam to circulate poster

	<p>has been variable so far but we will continue to support these and monitor going forward.</p> <p>PATT and CaPa have supported Rachel Clotworthy to set up an autism parent support group in Stanford Le Hope running alongside a drop-in.</p>	
Meetings Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEND Inclusion meeting 7th February at the Civic Offices- Thea to attend with Ashley - Eastern Region Training 26th February at Cambridge – Thea to attend. Sam to advise region. Carrie may be able to attend but will confirm. - SEND training London – Ashley expressed an interest but is unable to attend due to clash with drop-in. 	Sam to confirm
Meeting with Cllr Halden, Rory Patterson and Malcolm Taylor	<p>Cllr Halden, Rory Patterson and Malcolm Taylor were invited to the meeting to discuss the results of the SEN survey, a copy of which was circulated beforehand.</p> <p>A summary of the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All present welcomed the large response to the survey which offered real life feedback. Malcolm said it identified issues which fitted in with the strategic pathway. - 69% of responses had children at mainstream school. - There was a higher percentage of negative responses to education overall possibly due to social care and health not always being applicable. - There was a higher rate of positive responses to health possibly due to services being specialised although it was noted that there was some isolated negative feedback about GP/paediatricians. - Parents fed back about lengthy EHCP timescales and lack of contact from SEN teams; Malcolm said that current timescales for EHCP completion are 87.5% which is on target and that better performance management has been implemented to log calls from parents as well as interviewing for more caseworkers to increase capacity. In the future an online parent portal is being developed to aid communication. - Parents said schools are not actioning everything on the EHCP; Malcolm confirmed that if something is in the Plan it should be implemented by law. If schools are doing something different, then the Plan should be changed. - There was some negative feedback about SENCOs; it was acknowledged that not all SENCOs attend termly meetings to keep up to date with relevant issues/training and some are part time and not available all week; Ashley stated that more training is needed for SEN support as parents need to be confident that SEN support is as good as a Plan. - Parents reported lengthy delays of 12-18 months getting support from EWMHS although the original referral to the waiting list can be quick. Parents feel there should be better outreach to include families and siblings. - Malcolm said there was a toolkit on suicide prevention being rolled out soon to include primary school age. The new Ofsted framework will include social, emotional and wellbeing progress. - There was lots of feedback from parents stating schools don't understand autism and ADHD issues. - There wasn't much feedback from parents with profound and multiple disabilities which may be because children at Beacon Hill are getting their needs met through their specialised offering. - Parents reported that social workers can come across as judgmental and 	

	<p>threatening; Malcolm said that social workers will be having training on strength-based models. Malcolm reported that interventions by social workers have reduced in line with expectations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ashley reported that Health services sometimes raise parents' expectations too much by setting unrealistic targets and promises. - Ashley advised that Ian Kennard who deals with Direct Payments at Thurrock Council is piloting outcome-based assessments which are based on positive approach rather than the worst day point of view; acknowledged by all that this raises self-esteem. - There is a lack of understanding around CAF forms and who can fill them out and what they are needed for. - Post 16 and 19 services are being developed such as TACT, Palmers, SEEVIC, Adult college and South Essex College. 	
Any other business	None to report	
Next Steering Group Meeting	<p>Steering group members continue to meet informally at drop-in's every week and use WhatsApp to catch up daily so decision to meet formally every 3 months.</p> <p>Next steering group meeting for official business will be April – date to be confirmed.</p>	Sam to organise