

Short Breaks Improvement Partnerships Meeting Notes

Date of Meeting: 25/05/2018

Present

Mary Jarrett – Children’s Disability Service Manager, RMBC

Susan Claydon – Head of Service, Early Help, RMBC

Shafiq Hussain – Deputy Chief Executive Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR)

Teresa Brocklehurst – Strategic Co-ordinator, Children, Young People & Families Consortium VAR

Jayne Fitzgerald – Strategic Lead, Rotherham Parent and Carer Forum (RPCF)

Jane Smith – Children’s Commissioning Officer, RMBC

Rebecca Mcalister – Children’s Commissioning Manager (Chair) RMBC

Ellen Senior - Children's Disability Family Support Manager, RMBC

Apologies

Victoria Morris – Extended Service Co-ordinator, Nexus Multi Academy Trust

1. Terms of Reference

The group discussed draft terms of reference and made suggestions to clarify the purpose of the group.

2. Service updates

Rotherham Parent Carer Forum (RPCF) – Jayne Fitzgerald

The PCF already offer a number of regular activities and have an activities coordinator that started November 2017. There are currently 3 weekly activities being delivered and various monthly and seasonal activities. The Forum also promote the MAX card and offer sibling support groups. There is a good relationship with local activity centres, achieve discounted rates and specialist sessions.

Gaps in provision: The Forum has started to monitor families that are not accessing activities alongside geographical activities and exploring developing venues. The Forum has identified that activities are aimed at younger children, there is a gap in the market for young people aged 14+ and are now looking at activities for the older young people including ones that they can do without parents/carer as this can be a barrier. The forum also has a resource lending facility for items such as specialist beds and trikes. They are also looking at finding PA's. To date there are 1100 families that form the Forum.

Children's Disability Service - Mary Jarratt

Mary gave a brief overview of the strategic context for short breaks and the priorities are to improve life chances and improve social inclusion for children with SEND. Our short breaks offer is flexible in that we want to be able to include brothers and sisters who do not have SEND and support Children and Young People with SEND to access mainstream activities.

Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) - Shafiq Hussain and Teresa Brocklehurst

The Service that RMBC are commissioning from VAR a grant scheme to allow voluntary, community and faith organisations to adapt existing activities to become more SEND friendly. The contract is about to be finalised so only initial development has taken place to date. SH and TB would like to work with the PCF in particular around the checklist they are developing for businesses.

Early Help - Susan Claydon

RMBC Early Help is commissioned to provide a range of short breaks. The current offer is:

- Elephants in steps (13-25)
- Tumbi Club 0 younger children 7-12
- Mind body soul – young people raising self-esteem, 3 separate groups (North, South, Central)
- Triple P Stepping Stones Parenting Programme (support via Steering Group)
- Early Help provide taxi's for children not able to get to these groups which parents say is very supportive

3. Outcomes and Impact

There was a broad discussion around measuring impact and available tools to do this such as WEMWBS (Warwick & Edinburgh Wellbeing Scale) and POET. The

group concluded that it would be simpler to focus on 3 or 4 key outcomes measures that we think are the most important. BM suggested that commissioning would draft these (for comment by the group) and would be used across the commissioned short breaks services so that there is consistency.

Children's Commissioning are starting to update the Short Breaks Needs Analysis. The last one was completed in 2015 and is based on data from 2013/14. The short breaks offer has changed considerably since then and it is important to update this document and consider commissioning priorities and gaps moving forward.

JF asked that Children's Commissioning look particularly at access criteria for services as part of the needs analysis.

4. AOB

It was agreed that the notes from the Partnership meetings would be published on the local offer to support openness and accountability.