



Self Assessment of our SEND Implementation

May 2016

*A new approach to special
educational needs and disability*



Service Development: Consultation to Co-Production

What was the issue?

In order to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families, the SEN Team in Torbay have been working with parent and carer representatives to implement the SEND reforms and improve the support that the team can offer.

Our long term aim is to embed a culture of co-production with children, young people and parents across service development. We recognise that we are not there yet, but can give numerous examples of how we have worked with children, young people and parents to develop the processes and information that are used in Torbay.

Our journey so far....

In the first year of the SEND reform implementation (2013 – 2014) the Parent Participation Forum (PPF) contributed participants to three major task and finish groups:-

- Education, Health and Plans
- Local Offer
- Preparing for Adulthood

The participants were able to give their own views to influence work and also acted as an important link to the wider forum membership for specific consultation topics.

Task group representatives from schools consulted with pupils on the format of EHCP drafts and Local Offer itself. We responded feedback using a “you said we did” approach which was made available on the SEN website.

As well as task group representation, since September 2013 we have provided a range of opportunities for children, young people and their families to give their views (detailed below). We will continue to work on improving our engagement and develop a more sustainable way of working together to improve outcomes for children.

What have we done?

Local Offer

- PPF participants were part of Local Offer task group contributing to decisions on format and content
- Young people were contacted for their views on the templates and additional content: Mayfield, PCSA, Combe Pafford, Brixham College, Children’s Centres
- Mayfield School produced the Makaton version of Local Offer template questions
- The Local Offer was presented to parents at a Parent’s Forum workshop and views were gathered
- Year 1 annual survey for parents and professionals in April 2015 with response
- Year 2 annual survey planned for July 2016
- PHAB club were consulted for their views on the Local Offer and how it can be improved
- Parents are consulted on their awareness of the Local Offer as part of telephone follow up



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- All service users are invited to give their feedback on the Local Offer to the SEND Team. All feedback received is responded to.

Education, Health and Care Plan and Process

- PPF representatives were part of the EHCP task group
- Mayfield, PCSA, Combe Pafford, Brixham College pupils were consulted on EHCP format
- The SEN Team hosted an EHCP consultation workshop with parents at a PPF event in March 14
- An EHCP satisfaction questionnaire was developed with the PPF to capture views to help develop the plan and associated process
- Post EHCP telephone surveys of parents were put in place due to poor response to questionnaire
- Annual review paperwork has been updated to include an impact measure which allows the young person and parents to comment on their progress

Preparing for Adulthood

- PPF representatives were part of the Preparing for Adulthood task group and were consulted on what key information would support young people in the transition to Adult Services and to meet longer term aspirations. This has been used to develop the Preparing for Adulthood guide.

Other examples of consultation / coproduction with parents

- We have worked with individual families to develop the approach to Personal SEN Budgets within Torbay
- The PPF contributes a column to the quarterly SEND Reforms newsletter
- The PPF was consulted on the content and format of the booklet: Education, Health and Care Plans – Guidance for Parents and Carers.
- The SEN Team worked with Total Communication Now to develop an Easy Read Guide. Total Communication Now worked with a young person's group to develop the literature.
- The Preparing for Adulthood pilot booklet was developed in consultation with PPF. The booklet will be piloted with pupils and their families at Combe Pafford School to find out what information should be included
- The PPF share new publications, news and events from the SEN Team on the PPF website
- Young people from The Spires Academy were consulted on how they are enabled to contribute to the EHCP process. The resulting work from this exercise is still in development.
- A parent from Shiphay School took part in a project to evaluate the use of information sharing technology to support the Torbay SEN Support Process (1&2)

Meetings / Events

- Quarterly meetings between the Head of Service, SEND, and the PPF Steering Group
- SENDIASS steering group includes the PPF representatives and Head of Service SEND
- The SEN Team present updates on the SEND Reforms in Torbay at PPF events in 2014 and 2015 and consult with the group on priorities
- The SEN Team work with PPF Steering Group to complete the regular SEND Implementation Surveys. This gives an opportunity to compare perspectives on the progress of the reforms within Torbay and develops the working relationship between SEN and the PPF



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What difference has this made?

- The relationship between the SEN Team and the PPF is growing all the time and we share a joint aim to work towards coproduction within the next 12 months.
- There are numerous opportunities for feedback.

According to feedback received:

- Improved parent's confidence in supporting their children and removed the adversarial nature they used to feel of decisions made for them instead of with them.
- Feedback has enabled improvements to be made e.g. changes to EHCP April 2016
- Allowed best practice to be shared across Torbay

Areas for further action

- Develop links with sustainable links with a variety of young people's groups
- To work with young people, parents, SENCOs and multi-agency partners to improve how young people can participate effectively in the EHCP process and share their views in a way that is comfortable for them
- We need to reach more parents and make them aware of the opportunity to communicate their views

Immediate next steps

- The Chair of the PPF is joining the SEND Operational Leads group from June onwards
- To develop links with young people's groups and move away from adhoc consultation towards a true coproduction approach. The next step will be meeting with the SENDIASS young people's group which is being coordinated by Young Devon.
- To improve our processes for gathering the views of children, young people and families

Author

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