** **

**Partners in Commissioning**

**Meeting Note 23 September 2024**

**10:00 – 12:00** **Virtual**

**Partner Attendees:**

**Pinpoint** Sarah Conboy (CEO); Bianca Cotterill (Finance); Lisa Belton (Deputy CEO); Linda Green (Participation); Sara Basuc (Training and Engagement Officer).

**CCC:** Kelly Law (SEND Local Offer), Siobhan MacBean (Disability Care Service), Lucy Munt (Head of Service, Children’s Commissioning).

**Health:** Kathryn Goose (Commissioning), Siobhan Weaver (Designated Clinical Officer); Sue Allan (Healthwatch), Raj Laksham (Public Health commissioning)

**Apologies:** Linda Green (Pinpoint Participation);Nicola Dawes (CCC Commissioning Officer); Teresa Grady (CCC SEND Adviser); Emma Harkin (CCC Head of SAT and Complex Cases), Andrew Jones (CCC Commissioning Manager, SEND), Helen Andrews (CCC Commissioning Manager, Children and Families); Emma Harkin (CCC Head of SAT and Complex Cases) Lizzie Robertson (CCC Commissioning Manager, Children with Disabilities). Raj Laksham (CCC Public Health commissioning); Kirsten Clarke (CCC AD Carers Partnerships); Angela Buxton (Head of SENDIASS); Josie Lynn. Head of Disability Social Care Service 0 – 25), Amy Wyles (Pinpoint Deputy Comms Officer), Janet Dullaghan (Pinpoint Chair of Trustees), Okailey Dua (CCC Commissioning Manager, SEND).

1. **Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting. As noted above, apologies were noted. It was noted that some people have now left the post.

ACTION: All attendees were invited to check the list of names for their organisations and provide updated names as appropriate.

1. **Previous Minutes and Outstanding Actions**

The two outstanding actions were completed and closed before the meeting – see below.

ACTION: Lucy will provide Michelle and Siobhan with the text and survey so that Pinpoint can share it through their communications channels. All other partners are encouraged to share it, too. DONE

ACTION: Partners were encouraged to suggest groups that should be invited to join the Forum’s Forum, which meets later this month. DONE

1. **Current commissioning and service issues:**

Health: Mental Health

Kathryn provided an update on mental health—the pattern is much as expected ahead of the anticipated annual spike in referrals for October and November.

Nessie has been commissioned to elicit the Emotional School-Based Avoidance programme of support, and they are doing this in tandem with YoUnited and the schools-based Mental Health Support Teams. Work is ongoing to identify where the future expansion of additional school-based Mental Health Support Teams would be desirable, should new central government funding become available.

The Lord Darzie report (The Independent Review into the National Health Service —GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)) is an important new review that has just been published and identified inequalities in the system. There is a link to a summary review version of the formal report: https://www.carnallfarrar.com/darzi-investigation-of-the-nhs-in-england/. This and the next round of government funding are likely to see new commitments to addressing mental health needs, focusing on improving waiting times.

The post-Covid surge in the reported increase in eating disorders is now decreasing and returning to a pre-pandemic level.

The PINS (Partners in Neurodiversity in Schools pilot) that Pinpoint are co-delivering with the LA/health has noted that a number of parent carers report that their children’s mental health is inextricably linked to their own mental health. Pinpoint is signposting parent carers to Qwell (<https://www.qwell.io/>). It was suggested that linking mental health services in tandem with adult mental health services to support a whole family may be more effective, achieve better outcomes, and be more cost-effective in some cases. Katheryn noted that Anna Tuke is already leading on some parent carer support work.

Sue reported that Healthwatch were aware of a new service of support in Cambridge City and Peterborough – <https://glo.maximusuk.co.uk/beezeeyouth/> <https://multisites.maximusuk.co.uk/beezeeyouth-sign-up-now/>

We heard how social care had used a recent summer Cam Play event to bring parent carers together. There was a general consensus that this type of activity was beneficial and could perhaps be included in future commissioning.

Health

Siobhan W updated us on the Health Child Programme and an in-person event that is running in October.

There is an ongoing survey for the ‘Getting Ready for Change’ programme ([Getting Ready for Change - information for young people (cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk)](https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-health-services-cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-0-19-healthy-child-programme/getting-ready-for-change---information-for-young-people) that will direct those taking the survey to relevant help and support. The postcode data would be used to inform future service needs.

The Specialist Community Nursing Service (CCS NHS Trust) are providing the service to Presley Woods School and Martin Bacon Academy from 1st September 2024. This means nine Special Schools now have a referred-in service of specialist nursing support.

A short discussion on health checks raised the issue of what is known to parent carers about eligibility, how to join the GP register, and what is known in GP practices. Siobhan M commented that there was ongoing work on how learning needs should be recorded in GP notes. ACTION: Pinpoint and Dr Nandi Mukhopadhyay to look at more comms around the definition of Learning disability (SpLD and MLD) and information for parent carers.

Bianca updated colleagues that the Wheelchair Forum has been considering recommissioning a service for wheelchair provision in homes where children are mobile at home but may require wheel assistance outside the house. However, she didn’t know the outcomes of these discussions. ACTION: Siobhan W will update the group on the progress of the new Wheelchair provision recommissioning. ACTION: Sara will review whether the Pinpoint Neurodiversity Booklet needs additional information on health checks.

Commissioning:

Lucy advised that the SEND Sufficiency Strategy will go to the Committee in January, with a November deadline. There will be a short, animated video to accompany it. Some sections are still in development, but once it's ready to be shared, all are encouraged to read and comment. Sarah asked for early sight as there had been a number of points raised in an early draft. ACTION: Lucy will share a preview copy with Sarah for comment.

Commissioning is reviewing Alternative Provision and Independent Special School Place provisions.

The Activities Framework can be extended following an options appraisal.

Lucy is working with providers on how they can add social value to Pinpoint's work. Pinpoint will join the next Commissioning Partnership Board, where sponsorships will be introduced.

Work on preparing for the Area SEND Inspection remains ongoing – there has been no call to date.

The committee has confirmed that Pinpoint will have a five-year contract to deliver increased participation and engagement. Sarah noted that this gave the Forum the confidence to plan. Bianca said that it was always a challenge to retain staff without some level of future funding, and it was most welcome.

The Former Joint Children’s Health Commissioning Board is being replaced by a new Joint Commissioning Operation Group (JCOG), which brings together health, social care, education, and public health commissioning. Sarah commented that while this was a children’s Joint Board, there needed to be a seamless link to adult commissioning. She cited the issue that some in commissioning still do not understand the Forum’s grounding in legislation and confuse us with commissioning/contracted services.

The new Commissioning lead for Inclusion, Rosa De Mayo, will join CCC at the end of October.

Sarah raised the issues of school transport, the annual challenge of summer retenders, and families feeling anxious when new provider information isn’t shared until the start of the term. While Pinpoint and the school transport team had worked together to find ways of keeping parent carers informed, it would be even better if there was an automated system—a self-lookup system in the future.

Bianca noted that adults are reforming the system so that wheelchair-enabled taxis cannot be easily booked in advance, presumably because many are contracted. Companies don’t want to commit to other work in advance.

Social Care:

Siobhan M informed the group that the Disability Social Care Survey for parent carers informed the Sufficiency Strategy and service delivery.

Social care has been working to address options for those receiving direct payments who have struggled to find providers. A new micro-enterprise model is now available, and it will be advertised and supported through the SEND Information Hub. Families can use this to find help and someone to support their young person directly.

Disability Social Care and Early Years have been working together to support settings so they can better access additional funding to help children with SEND.

The Disabled Facilities Grant continues to cause concern, but there has been some positive progress. Pinpoint and Siobhan are due to meet later today for an update. Siobhan shared that the BBC Sounds series ‘Complex’ was insightful. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00201xd/episodes/player>

Education:

Kelly updated us on the SEND Information Hub. She has been working with Teresa Grady to review the site. The Cambs Community Directory has now been added, enabling more targeted information when searched. Sarah noted that the new All-Age Autism Strategy will have its webpage hosted by How Are You Today. Cambridgeshire. However, there will need to be careful coordination to ensure information is consistent and works for all audiences. Siobhan W reminded the group that there had been a coproduction with service users who asked for a single location. Sarah commented that the challenge is the difference between the needs of autistic adults and parent carers trying to navigate the SEND system – starting places, information requirements, and processes are very different. Sarah also noted that every change to a website changes the links of sites that point to it – in Pinpoint’s case, this also significantly impacts the 382-page ND Booklet, as each link must be checked by hand.

Healthwatch:

Sue reminded the group that Jess Slater has joined Healthwatch as its new CEO. Healthwatch has a Summit booked for 2nd October, highlighting inequalities [Summit event set to highlight health inequalities | Healthwatch Cambridgeshire](https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/news/2024-09-13/summit-event-set-highlight-health-inequalities).

Youthwatch, which covers access to health services for those aged 14-24, is looking for more contributions. Siobhan M suggested the Speak Out Council / Voiceability.

Pinpoint:

Bianca attended the Transitional Safeguarding Meeting and reported that it looks at all transitions and how to ensure children's and young people's safety during those transitions. The focus is on clinical and healthcare safety.

1. **AOB**

Children and Young People’s Wheelchair Forum – does it exist? Yes: <https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/event/2023-10-23/young-peoples-wheelchair-user-forum>

Sarah thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.