

# SEND Strategy Consultation Process Report

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FAMILY VOICE PETERBOROUGH

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12/1/2018

# ***SEND Strategy Consultation Process Report***

## ***1. Introduction***

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are seeking views on their draft strategy for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The strategy has been co-produced by professionals, parents, carers and young people from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It sets out how both local areas will work to support children, young people and their families with SEND in future. It is built upon a shared belief that considering and providing for the needs of children and young people with SEND should be 'everyone's business', with the aim of providing high quality multi-agency services which will enable children and young people to thrive.

The needs for services to work together and for the identification of gaps are crucial to have better outcomes for CYP in the next years. The strategy should support the local needs to allow for the continuous improvement and further development of the SEND reforms, mind-set change, and co-production work among the diverse Health, Care and Education agencies.

## ***2. Method***

### ***2.1 Method used***

The survey was diffused on our social media pages and groups that Family Voice lease on regular basis such is Local Down Syndrome group, National Autistic Society, Peterborough District Deaf Children Society, people were encourage to participate and express their views, Family voice has no record of such data as it was collected indirectly via an online questionnaire held by the local authority. A total of 31 families were engaged via Focus groups and family activities held at different dates throughout October and November 2018.

### ***2.2 Population***

All the parents in attendance range from age ranged between 30 and 55, no specific data was collected and therefore a mean cannot be found. Out of the 31 parent/grandparent carers in attendance, 28 were from the feminine gender and 3 masculine.

The total of parents of the in attendance were all Peterborough residents or county borders as well as Peterborough service users, from different socio-economic and cultural background that due to the ethnicity (ethnic minority) and socio-cultural and economic background factors can be considered as included in the seldom heard families. Families had a varied ethnic background and defined themselves as being Mixed, Asian British, Black British, white British, and white European.

Disabilities reported by parents: Language impairment, Autism, ADHD, OCD, Food allergies, , motor coordination difficulties, Anxiety disorder, 16p11.11, sensory Processing disorder, Dyspraxia, Learning disability, hearing loss, global development delay, Epilepsy, Severe motor disability , Complex health needs, CTCF gene mutation, Atypical Osteogenesis imperfecta, Spina Bifida and androcephalous.

### ***3. Discussion***

#### ***3.1 Focus Groups Feedback***

As part of the consultation process Family Voice had several focus groups help at their premises on dates throughout October and November 2018, as well as receiving feedback from other local groups that support mental and physical disabilities in Peterborough (Shine and National Deaf Society). The feedback received from the focus groups were the following:

- Special schools and mainstream good practice and accountability
- Are schools referrals taken on board
- Communication between services is an issues in all parts of the EHCP's
- SALT services are inconsistent specially moving from primary to secondary settings
- SALT services are not supporting children academic needs
- Emotional support is being overseen
- The abdication of accountability by services will impact on other services , how can you make services accountable
- Early identification of need is still a blank policy and need to be seen as case by case
- Community services are still not providing a consistent approach to the needs of the individual

White the above mentioned groups reported as their priority to be:

- The transition to adult services are not done well and families are feeling unsupported
- Services are still not communicating with each other well , leaving families facing emotional strain
- Community services are still not consistent in the support that is given to families
- Co-morbidities are still left as a non-priority by health services and that impacts on the person wellbeing
- Community still does not know what services exist- lack of information
- Accessing community services such dentist and GP's is a challenge
- understanding and supporting the condition is a challenge due to the lack of knowledge

Family Voice is just reporting the feedback to the team at the Local authority and therefore the above trends can be added to the existing trends already found from the online

questionnaires. Many of the identified issues will become relevant in the Action plan that supports the strategy and it is done at local level.

Accountability and service working together seem to be a concern and a priority for most parent carers in Peterborough, as many still feel that the transitions to adulthood , key stage in school , and children to adult health services are far from perfect and the support dwindles despite of the needs remain the same for families and CYP.

### ***3.2 Parent report on the “Voice of the Child”***

<b>Column1</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>
To be happy	18	
To do well at school and college	13	5
To have schools , colleges and other things near where you live .	12	6
To have dreams and people to believe in them	15	3
your parents and carers are involved	17	1
People work together well	15	3
To be healthy	16	2
To learn and do things that will help when you are an adult	15	3
To get a job if you want	16	2
To go out and do things near where you live	17	1
healp from people who are good at their jobs	15	3
To have friends	17	1
To be able to tell people what you want	15	3
To have fun	18	

Fig.1 Parent report on what their children reported to be important to them

Most areas were considered to be important to the CYP , with exception of the ones that current struggles within services for the CYP in question. Therefore although data should be read as in order of relevance and what is important to the CYP, the numbers that stated that those areas were not important were mainly due to the fact that those areas do not represent good experiences in the

CYP life's which highlights it as areas for improvement and priority. This extensive evaluation of the data was collected based on the comments of the parent carers about the areas highlighted by their CYP.

#### ***4. Recommendations***

- Please have a look at the dual interpretation of the voice of the child
- To take the considerations forward to the Action Plan discussion
- To collate the above data with the rest of the data collected already by the LA

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