

BARNSELY SENDIASS  
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING  
18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019 - MINUTES OF MEETING

**Burning issues for IASS:**

Open parent discussion.

How to reach those parents not accessing IASS? Not everyone has access and ability/confidence to use www. – Leaflets/posters in family centres/ GP surgery/CAMHS and schools.

Mobile unit for SENDIASS – discussed and favoured as an option – SENDIASS could be in school grounds, local communities etc. and more accessible

Open office – walk in option that's not so daunting. Location of office is a barrier – volunteering is not possible at Gateway and mentoring would be better if had an independent office space or mobile unit.

Parents say there is some suspicion around SENDIASS – who we work for? Connected to BMBC?

Other: Parents not clear on the differences on council run and academy schools and the different guidelines/rules/regulations and complaints.

**Annual Report: Feedback**

Parents voiced that figures quoted for interaction of IASS are not true reflection of the level of parent/carers that need IASS – feels that there is a general apathy in some parents due to the current system. Some felt there is also parent power and empowerment of more is needed. How to do this? Through publicity, training and support.

Membership of a steering group for IASS can offer a support network for those volunteers although IASS would like the group to be independent so that those parents who don't have trust of IAS as a BMBC organisation have another avenue to access it.

Annual Report Page 21. *Inform and influence local policy and practice by providing information to the LA about the needs and wishes of parents, children and young people.* Parents discussed how this would happen.

- This loop is highly important but there is a level of cynicism among parents that they are not listened to and are not invited to 'sit at the table' or make open discussion ideas and express opinion on need to policy change and influence moderate changes.

Frustrations expressed at the lack of communication from the LA. Firstly, the appointment of the new line manager to IASS (Stephanie Evans) – there has been no introduction or communication to Barnsley SEN parents.

Also the recent employment of a number of new staff and the arrangements within the EHCP Team – parents would like some communication on plans moving forward. No one seems to know anything about the recent changes and feel some communication would be most helpful.

Schools/settings should be telling parents, children and young people about IASS – why are they not doing this?

**SMG Development:**

Volunteers – not skivvies just an enhancement of the current IASS

Use as a filter for SENDIASS or other relevant resource

Impartial minutes taken or record meetings

Bi/Tri – monthly meetings

Wide reach – use social media, face book live for those that can't make a meeting, be aware of those that are not connected to social media and internet

Clear boundaries of volunteer tasks

Clear confidentiality rules

Write up of volunteer contract responsibilities. Consider rota of on duty times and provide etc numbers

Match numbers to the need. Not all on the shoulders of a few.

Provide IPSEA training as an available option/choice. Develop a small number of volunteers

Provide a 'pen portrait' of themselves and challenges faced/overcome. Consider disclosing child's SEND – a way of connecting with other parent/carers.

Change name – SMG to a more friendly title. 'Steering group' /Parent power/ Influence and Improve

Develop business cards to give out so that service users know the different between the IASS and the steering group. Get a piece of art work contact the art group and distinguish as different to the service logo

NEWSLETTER – monthly report of challenging issues. Changes in the LA/SEND world

**SENDIASS to Action:**

Design and put out posters/leaflets in community and schools/education settings covering 0 - 25 to sign-post to our service

Ozone drop in link- up – inform in community of our presence at monthly meet

Cover – family centres/ schools/GP centres etc.

Run Poll on Facebook or new website for volunteers and other ideas

Create a more 'friendly' name other than SMG

Provide training as an available option/choice. Develop a small number of volunteers

Seek some art work and create a business card to set apart the steering group to the service so that service users have a choice of which parent they want to access

**SENDIASS Timeline for the actions:**

Poll has been posted and on line and staff will also ask service users the same question through telephone, face to face interaction too to capture those not on social media - to complete by **27/6/19 (so far 99% respondents in agreement for this)**

Contacted the art group and have sourced the development of a logo

Temporarily renamed SMG to **steering group** until the group is formed and they can then choose their own name

Poster will be designed and ready for distribution **by 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Business cards for steering group to be ready by **15<sup>th</sup> July**

Family event to launch the steering group – **proposal - 6<sup>th</sup> August (TBC)**