



STEERING GROUP MEETING NOTES - 21/11/19

SENDIASS staff and parents carers meeting at the YMCA

General Points Raised

- Discussed option of bi-monthly (every 8 weeks) formalised meetings some occasional meetings in between where needed;
- Discussion around multi-agency drop in session. Who would parents like to invite to talk to?
- Group felt SEND still under represented (over other minority groups);
- SENCO network / Schools Alliance Collaboration - letter to schools requesting meeting;
- New organiser agreed upon by a parent with admin support from SENDIASS. Direct Steering Meeting information/arrangements etc;
- Members would like to offer schools presentations about specific disabilities;
- Members requested arranging steering groups on Saturday as 'social sessions' for families where parents/carers can discuss issues in a child-friendly environment over refreshments (SENDIASS) will help look at venues and explore this further;
- Members suggested they may like to ask the 'Barnsley Chronicle' to write an article and highlight the role of the SENDIASS steering group for the local IASService;
- Group suggested they may like to be added to the 'Local Offer' around what they can offer as parents/carers in terms of 'Mentoring' others. Delivery in schools?
- Need for monthly surgeries and peer to peer support;
- Peer to peer support/volunteer set up is behind schedule- grant funded / CPD opportunity;
- SENDIASS should be able to approach steering group about concerns;
- Improved structure Steering Group - future needs to be more sustainable / parents to be more representational / empowering themselves;
- Steering Group change of name to 'acronym'?
- Need more presence in schools;

- Interest in Barnardo's parents and carers sessions - only attended by SENDIASS would like to continue 0-11 autism focus;
- Quality of SENDIASS case work is 'patchy' (members requested staff familiarise themselves with IAS standards);
- Child/young person may not be within SEND remit. More in-depth information gathering needed from SENDIASS officer to clarify support needs;
- Some parents & carers feel that IASS representation in meeting is not always impartial and want staff to be made aware of this as part of their own professional development within the service.
- Comments around some lack of consistency in the SENDIASS team advice / support offered. Is this through the telephone helpline, Facebook, meetings with case advisors?

ACTIONS

IASS staff to contact venues for 2020 steering group meetings to include Play Centre at Mapplewell and Chestnut Tree near Town and to enquire about childcare supervision in venues provided by Social Care;

IASS manager to feed back to the service staff parent reporting from the steering group

IASS staff to evidence they have refreshed their knowledge and understanding of the IASS standards

IASS have requested that information about SENDIASS be circulated for inclusion in SEND policy to schools (via LA Communications), Early Years, After School Clubs, Childminders (Via FIS), Post 16 Team and TIAG etc. Further communication need to CAMHS (leaflet) and so on will continue.

Steering group members suggested also ensuring that SENDIASS information is included in the 'Accessibility Policy' and leaflets for noticeboards etc.

SENDIASS service is piloting training and are arranging for it to be delivered in schools initially one school has taken the offer up.

Peer to Peer Support

Members advised there is a new parents/carers group starting Monday 25th November at Cudworth Fire Station (name to be decided).

Website

SENDIASS are working towards developing a website as currently there is only a web page on the BMBC website and is not entirely as 'impartial' as needed and restrictive with content and layout.

SENDIASS are looking at options including and using the Local Authority I.T. dept. to create a site. This is a slow process but will keep service users updated where possible and welcome feedback about the layout please.

Following a meeting with young people and parents carers Ideas so far include a section for parents/carers (Information, current issues/topics, FAQs, links to resources, blogs etc.) children and young people (focusing on more interactive information/activities/videos/youth groups etc.

Parents / carers would like a discussion forum type 'parent led' method of sharing information, ideas and seeking support from others.

SENDIASS reported they have explored options of a standalone 'social media' site such as 'Readit' or 'Wordpress'. There may be restrictions with placing this within a website, along with considerations around security / confidentiality. Further investigation needed.

Newsletter

The first SENDIASS newsletter was issued in November and posted a link on Facebook and SENDIASS webpage. SENDIASS have invited feedback and further contributions so that these can be included in the next newsletter and to improve the current format.