**Notes from Norfolk Area SEND Multi-Agency (NASMA) Steering Group meeting 28.11.19**

Norfolk Marvellous Minders

Work is being done on a proposal to set up a Norfolk Marvellous Minders scheme based on a project developed by Southend Borough Council in partnership with the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY). The Southend scheme provides support to parents and carers with children who have specific complex needs. As part of Norfolk’s SEND transformation programme the aim is to actively seek to improve service and the delivery of service so they better meet families’ needs.  These Norfolk families currently have great difficulty in finding out of school hours childcare.

EHCPs

* Annual Reviews – primary schools backlog was cleared by mid September; training has been happening. There are 170 EHCP reviews per week.
* Phase transfer planning – all primary schools done, secondary schools in the process, post 16 most difficult.
* 20 weeks - Educational Psychologists – still not fully staffed. Educational Psychologists being contracted from out of county, three Y3 Educational Psychology students have been offered a post from next September.

The number of referrals for EHCPs is increasing, there were 203 referrals in September & October and have been anther 50 in the last 10 days.

There are 641 still to get through from prior to September, the recovery plan was based on incorrect assumptions.

I asked that information be sent out to explain the process and what’s happening for schools to be able to send out to any parents who are waiting for EHCP decisions as when I went to an Essential SENCo network meeting recently SENCos were saying parents are finding it hard to believe that the process is taking so long.  Parents are questioning whether the school as completed paperwork as they should have done.

Area SEND Strategy

Finalised and due to be printed, 20,000 leaflets have been ordered and 5,000 booklets of the strategy – a copy will be sent out to every school.

Update on Workstream 1 ‘SEN Support & Inclusion’ by Stuart Mason

It is to ensure sufficient good quality and affordable SEND provision enables children and young people.  This workstream is much bigger than anyone expected.

The SEND support services need to be seen and understood by everybody – LA, schools, parents…

So far:

* ‘Impower’ did studies and deep dives to understand how schools and settings manage SEND and why such a large number move to EHCP
* Project manager appointed
* Initial project definition and scope developed
* Engagements events have been held, approximately 30% of schools had engaged with these
* Funding models are being explored
* PEASS reviewed and resourced
* Core consultation project is up and running and involves 125 schools
* The access routes into Inclusion Services and the systems to better link their work together are in development
* Additional staffing is in place
* Inclusion Helpline reviewed, reshaped & relaunched
* SEND Forum schedule in place to better shapes information etc.

There were two aspects to Workstream 1, the Education aspect has moved on but, due to the whole being far bigger than first anticipated, the other aspect has paused (health & children’s services).

There is a meeting this afternoon to review the way forward.

**Teresa Doggett - Head of Blofield Primary School – 28.11.19**