

Notes from SENCO Solutions Meeting 28th September 2023 Elms Bank College

1. Introduction by Nicola Pemberton and Laura Baker to the Outreach Team and other members of the Oak LP Team. This meeting is a way forward to network and collaborate between the Local Authority, Multi Agencies, SENCO Network Coordination, and the Outreach Team.

Nicola discussed the various opportunities involved within 'One for All' such as SENCO SUPPORT SURGERY, TA Development Drop-In sessions along with Autism Education Trusts Development Programme and Eklan, Supporting Speech and language courses. The bespoke packages available on the Oak LP Graduated offer to Support SENCO and SEND. Follow us on Twitter (X) <https://twitter.com/OakOutreachBury> or email outreach@oaklp.co.uk.

2. Sarah Holland – Social Work Consultant, Family Safeguarding Model

Key aims of working together to safeguard children 2023.

- Early identification/intervention
- National multi agency protection standards with common framework in which to operate.
- Respect amongst other professional
- Communication
- Involving the Child and Family Networks in discussions
- Identify groups of children who need potential early help and assessments to include the family.
- Removal of Social Worker in CIN cases and replaced with family support/ domestic abuse/alcohol workers. But still remain with child protection cases.

Need for change: -

- Number of children in care has doubled in last 20 years.
- Babies removed from parents at birth doubled in 10 years.
- 25,000 children subject to care proceedings- 50% stayed with family.

Following the introduction of the Family Safeguarding Model which is showing as outstanding for Hertfordshire and working well for Lancashire there have been significant changes, see below. Due to changing attitudes to families and vice versa, using the Family Safeguarding Team and the Vision and Values: -

- 45% reduction in Child protection plan
- 30% fewer children in care
- 66% reduction in repeat police call outs

The Family Safeguarding Team assesses the support and requirements of a family to enable them in providing better care for their children. This may involve obtaining parental consent, devising a support strategy, and actively communicating with families through Family Safeguarding Recording to help them stay together. Nevertheless, they also remain vigilant in adhering to Child Protection Procedures when necessary.

3.Helen Bealey – Team Manager, Children with Disabilities Team

The Short Break Duty

A short break at home or in the community must be provided to a disabled child when they are necessary within legislation, provided they meet the child's needs.

Assessments are often requested by families to get short breaks which can be met through universal services or targeted provision in the community. However, any assessments undertaken by the Social Worker/Family Support Worker on behalf of children young people and their families must consider parenting capacity family environment and the wishes and feelings of the child. They are then referred on to the Disability Resource Panel who meet fortnightly to consider any referrals.

The Local Authority asked children and young people and parent/carers what they wanted and what the outcomes they were looking for.

Some of the Caring, Targeted Social Opportunities and Time Limited Opportunities are: -

Individual care for complex needs

- Crossroads together – support in the home or local area /outreach
- KVC Care - support in the home or local area/outreach
- Lagan's foundation - support in the home or local area/outreach

Targeted Social Opportunities

- Action for Children -Social clubs and Holiday clubs
- Endorphins - Gaming sessions and activities
- The Jewish Federation – Friday and Sunday groups and Holidays
- Foundation 92 – Sports and Activity programmes
- Barnardo's – Access local groups and activities

Positive Behavior Support

- ABL Health care - Support with challenging behavior at home for parents with nowhere else to turn.
- Affinity Trust - Positive Behavior Support for challenging behavior.

Help completing forms or which department deals with what at the local authority please email CWB@bury.gov.uk for assistance.

4. Gemma Parkes – Headteacher at Virtual School Bury

Gemma went through the latest training offers this Autumn, they are open to all schools for training or as a refresher. See slides for all training opportunities.

The Virtual School Headteacher promotes and champions the education of all children in care within the local authority or now under a social worker by providing training, monitoring attendance, attainment, and progress challenging schools on exclusion, and also providing funding.

Gemma would love to have at least one member of staff fully trained in each school, she then went on to discuss the various training offers and stated there were 24 places on the 11-day TISUK Diploma with 8 places remaining please email gemma.g.parkes@bury.gov.uk.

Please refer to the legislation, The statutory role of the Virtual School is set out in the DfE document, "Promoting the education of looked after children": pointing out that the second link about Schools' responsibilities towards children in care.

The context of children in care was discussed within Bury.

In each of the schools there must be a Designated Teacher who leads (preferably part of the leadership team) with appropriate training and time to fulfil their duties.

Summary of duties discussed for the DT.

PEP (mini EHCP) is completed on a termly basis and combines with EHCP for all children in care. A good PEP will establish what needs improvement and when the child turns 18, they can see these documents and look back to see what the school and social workers did and how they were supported on their journey.

PPG Funding is received from the DfE to the local authority for each child in care managed by the VSH appropriately.

Following a satisfactory PEP further funding will be allowed per term for the child of £600 following the correct procedures. See effective PPG Spending

Spending ideas discussed, this could be used to plug any gaps or an after-school TA, support such as counselling. But not anything that isn't linked to education.

Previously looked after children can still access PPG but directly to school and the role of VS is to support and guide schools and families on how to access that support.

How effectively can we support these children?

The Wellbeing Pathway – VA inclusion advisor who work with children who have a social worker.

Examples of CYP

- Psycho-education
- Lego Therapy
- Sand Play
- Worry Management

Outcomes of the Wellbeing Pathway – Consultations and 1-1 sessions

Future planning Virtual School developing small group interventions for young people who have a social worker.

All contact details available.

5. Lauren Warburton – The Wellbeing Policy (launched April 2023)

- Professionals working with children.
- Support with referrals
- Book 20-minute appointments with the inclusion advisor via email
 1. Outcome – 1-2-1 session/appointment tailored to the child's specific needs.
 2. Lego therapy
 3. Picture/drawing therapy
 4. Worry management – drawing
- Consultations every Monday between 12pm – 2pm
- 80 – 100% of sessions offered are attended
- Future planning – Group work
 1. Lego play
 2. Exam stress
 3. Loss and bereavement
 4. Emotional health and wellbeing

6. Michael Kemp – EHCP Post, Outreach Updates

How do people feel about disability? Discrimination?

- Be aware of yourself – remove boundaries
- Think about your own values
- Think/recognise wider issues

EHCP:

- Put request in
- Access/rejected access
- Seek advice from all parties
- Samantha Briggs contacts the relevant social worker/Support systems
- General conversations

Outreach:

- Finalised/structured education settings
- 1 Big team – Outreach services
- 6 Outreach offices/4 systems and services – To assist with pupils outside term time ie summer holidays.
- SALT and OT's now included
- Moving and handling position will be joining the team – TBC.

Question? Will there be a new/revised referral process? Yes. CAMH's will also be included. Referrals will go to the 'Multi Inclusive Panel'. OT's will start to go out into the community for assessments.

Question? Graduated Toolkit? Multi Agency - All evidence/info must be collated over time to build up detailed and descriptive evidence.

Question? Will there be a new referral process for the new Multi-Agency Panel?

When will it be in place? The new 'Multi-Agency Panel' will be activated from 14th October 2023.

Question? Will there be a process once all other processes have been exhausted? The Multi-Agency Panel will help with a graduated response. Check all evidence is accurate and detailed. The Multi-Agency Panel are aware that there are time delays with the EHCP team, resources are being brought in to try and improve the system.

Question? Communication from the SEN team is an ongoing issue. Parents are being promised special provision and not hearing back. Will this be resolved? We are aware there is an issue. Each member of the SEN team has roughly 450 cases each. Extra recourses and better customer care is being introduced which will help to reduce caseloads to 350 cases per person.

7. Family Hubs in Bury – Jamie Walker

- The pilot hub is now in operation in East Bury
- The Hub will offer support to families
- Developing activities
- Community midwife
- Parent classes
- Baby feeding advice
- Housing queries
- Debt help
- Youth support
- Family information service
- The next hub to be actioned will be in Radcliffe



Inclusion is at the heart of our trust

The Hub in East Bury will be holding an open day on **Friday 27th 2023 1pm – 6pm.**

Question? How do family's book onto classes/attend the Hub? Families can book via email. Leaflets will be going out to the community detailing the hubs resources and how to book.

8.Early Help – Issac Adams and Vicki Burgess

SENCO – Impact on children's lives with special educational needs.

Working together since 2018

- Identify children who require help
- Assessment
- Provided targeted help

Early Help:

- Timely manor
- Holistic
- Relational
- Assessment based
- Empowering – Highlight family strengths/encouragement
- Local and Sustainable

Early Help Locality Teams: Based in Whitefield, Redvales, Radcliffe and 5 neighbourhoods across Bury.

Early Help teams consist of social workers, consultants/practitioners and youth practitioners.

Early Help Approach:

- Key Worker for families
- Single assessment – this is to ensure that families don't have to repeat their story
- Conversation to replace referrals
- Professionals are able to share information and work together

Benefits:

- Emotional support
- Expert advice
- Collaboration opportunities

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Story So Far – Bury Early Help Assessment

- Family consent to help
- Completing 'Story So Far' prevents families having to repeat themselves.
- Identify possible actions/problems

Question? Are there workshops? Yes, in schools.

Question? Is this bespoke to Bury? Story so far – Yes. Early Help – No

Question? How often is the 'Story So Far' reviewed? All changes/outcomes are reviewed every 6-12 weeks. The 'Story So far' stays active until all needs are met.

All documents can be found on the Bury Council website.

9.Early Help – What Is Family Resource – Jen Mills

Family Resource

- Linked to family who has social workers etc. Track and monitor. Social worker is integral.

You Service

- 1-2-1 Support support.
- Trusted Adult
- Reliable person
- Assess – family resource
- Refer direct if no social care

Group Work KS2

- Part term ie 1 hour per week
- Offer themed work ie. Knife crime, bullying, relationships.
- Themed assemblies
- Youth groups with professionals at hand.
- Specific groups eg. LGBT, SEND and girls and boys groups.

Introduction To Youth Course

- Benefits staff and students
-

Intervention Courses

- Victim awareness course

Young Carers Team

- Asses support they need
- Help and assist with accessing youth groups

Strength Based Solutions

- Highlight options
- Rehabilitation

Youth Service

- People's voices are heard.

Circle Work: Annual Conference – what topics are important to youths – action plans – positive changes – youth voices are heard.

Circle of Influence Targets

- Victims
- Bullying
- Being safe
- SEND – Discuss services/changes

Youth/Children Open Question

- Direct questions from children – These make you think of potential option, ideas that you wouldn't address/think of.

10.What is Tenancy Support – Kim Partridge (Six Town Housing)

Who are we? Arm's length management organisation.

- Manage stock on behalf of Bury Council
- Tenancy – Rent paid on time. Improvements can be made.
- Repairs
- Investment work
- Communal cleaning and gardening
- Community engagement

Six Town Housing doesn't deal with applicants – Applicants are via Bury Council.



Oak LP
Outreach

Inclusion is at the **heart** of our trust

Tenancy Support

- Housing officers
- Supporting 350 people over the last year.
- Offers support to families with cost of living and domestic abuse.
- Financial support.
- Do they have support
- Gas heating provisions

Tenancy Agreement

- Establishing needs of the community.
- Foodbanks

Adaptions

- New builds/Homes.
- Ensure adequate living for individual needs.


Eyes wide open

- Take accountability for your community.
- Look around.
- Take Pride of where you live.

Look out for

- Physical issues
- Repairs
- Hoarding
- Fly tipping
- Graffiti
- Non-physical issues – self neglect
- Report concerns

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