



Learning Disability Parenting Task Group

Victoria Quay
(28/11/17)

Attending

Clare Simpson, Parenting Across Scotland (Chair)
Jean Cowie, NHS NES
Fiona Borrowman, NHS Health Scotland
Craig Gilbert, Scottish Government
Bianca Wood, People First
Jane Lewis, People First
Ronnie Hill, Scottish Government, GIRFEC team
David Barr, Aberlour
Alan Roberts NHS Fife
Pauline McDonald, Scottish Government, Learning Disabilities
Craig (People First student)
Carolyn Wilson, Scottish Government Maternal Health
Oonagh Brown, SCLD

Welcome and Introductions

Clare welcomed people to the group and there was a round of introductions. Apologies had been received from Andy Miller, John Urquhart from COSLA, and Emma Curren from the Royal College of Midwives.

She explained the reason why the previous meeting had been postponed. Discussions with Scottish Government had highlighted that an outcomes approach would be more compatible with current Scottish Government's approaches and more conducive to attracting Governmental support. The outcomes-based implementation plan will allow the work to feed into other policy areas of the Scottish Government.

Carolyn stated that the governance around this group had not been clear and work had taken place to make it clearer, while not being overly prescriptive. She stated that a question of how we move forward collectively had felt challenging.

Pauline stated that the implementation of the recommendations should be robust and focus on delivery.

Consequently, work has been undertaken between meetings to reframe the document into an outcomes-based approach. Initially, this will be reviewed and signed off by this group. It will then be taken to Ministers by Scottish Government colleagues. Having Ministerial approval would give the document considerably more authority and buy-in.

Approval of notes from the last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting had not been circulated with the papers for this meeting. Clare said that they would be circulated after this meeting with a note of any actions and updates on progress on the actions after this meeting.

Developing the Implementation Plan: Taking an Outcomes-Focused Approach

The papers (rationale papers -summary and extended version, outcomes document, and supporting legislation and policy) for the task group's discussion and approval were introduced. Clare then asked for the group's feedback on the documents.

There was a general discussion from the group regarding challenges in making a real difference and timescales. Clare explained that by gaining Ministerial buy into the plans would help with both achieving change and pushing it forward more quickly.

Communicating, promoting and using the plan

Oonagh asked the group how they would like the plan to be presented to Ministers for approval. Carolyn confirmed that the plan and papers could be revised and kept in their present format; civil servants would produce a Ministerial brief from them.

Carolyn and Pauline stated that there are four Ministers they would seek support from. They are:

Maree Todd, the Minister for Early Years and Childcare

Aileen Campbell, the Minister for Public Health

Maureen Watt, the Minister for Mental Health

Jean Freeman, Minister for Social Security who has responsibility for the Disability Delivery Plan.

Pauline explained that the Keys to Life recommendations were being aligned into the Disability Delivery Plan.

Fiona suggested that the documents would need to distinguish between local, regional and national strands of work. Using parent's stories would add strength to the messaging.

Alan said that following on from the Asset-Based Conference regional asset-based events were proposed and there could be a role for parenting. Alan also highlighted the need for a work plan for the group going forward and timescales for the implementation of the recommendations.

Updates on Progress

Clare asked the group for their updates.

Pauline:

Updated on the progress in aligning the Learning Disability Strategy with Disability Delivery Plan through a cross-policy approach. She stated key areas would be housing, education, families, and employability. She stated the 4 strategic outcomes will not change. These are:

1. A Healthy Life –people with learning disabilities should enjoy the highest attainable standard of living, health and family life.
2. Choice and Control - People with learning disabilities are treated with dignity and respect and protected from neglect, exploitation, and abuse
3. Independence –people with learning disabilities with learning disabilities should be able to live independently in the community with

equal access to all aspects of society, and recognises that barriers to this can be attitudinal as well as physical. The original strategy document recognises the importance of housing as a means to achieve such independence.

4. Active Citizenship –people with learning disabilities are able to participate in all aspects of community and society.

Pauline stated they are in the process of agreeing on main themes with the Minister, finance, and the sector. They broadly fall into the 3 headings of Living, Learning, and Working and that they will be supporting Ms. Watt at a number of bilaterals to agree on priorities in the coming months.

Alan:

Stated that the pre-natal pathway is now more solid as ongoing funding has been agreed with Barnardo's. They are looking to develop accessible information for parents considering or facing termination of pregnancy. We are also trying to develop accessible information that more clearly describes Child Protection Procedures and Children's Panels Meetings.

Alan added that the Fife Learning Disability Group is also developing capacity in Education in Early Years and School Age Services to help staff within these services recognise and appropriately support parents with a learning disability.

David:

The South Ayrshire Project coming to the end of its second round of Lottery funding. A successful bid for two years has been received but only for half the money which leaves the project £50,000 short for the upcoming year. Awaiting update from other bids and asking Aberlour to meet some of the costs.

David added that parents involved in the South Ayrshire Project's confidence has improved and now want to be part of something bigger to promote positive change for other parents with learning disabilities. This will be a social network of parents called 'Parents Stand Together'.

Bid for this work is being written with support from Gillian Macintyre and Dominic Jarrett.

David added that there was interest in expanding the project to North Ayrshire and working with the local authority there; working in two neighbouring local authorities may reduce management costs and allow some cost savings.

Ronnie:

The Information Sharing Bill, which was presented to Parliament in an attempt to remedy the issues identified in the Supreme Court judgment, is at Stage 1. A Stage 1 report is expected by Christmas or early in the New Year. Following this, the Bill would move to Stages 2 and 3 and is expected to be passed by the summer recess.

A Statutory Code of Practice would then have to be drafted and passed by Parliament. Following this Parts 4 and 5 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act would be brought into force.

He also stated that a Named Person Policy update was made in July and asked people to share this with their networks.

However, the work which is being carried out on accessible information can be taken forward without any legislation.

Bianca:

Updated the group on meeting with The Midwifery Education Group to discuss training for midwives in Scotland. Bianca updated on Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen offering to help make a film which could be used as an online training resource. As well as this updates were given on training for family support workers in Falkirk and students on The University of Edinburgh Social Work Course.

The parent's group also met with Sally Ann Kelly from Aberlour who agreed to take a range of issues to The Scottish Government leadership group for The Child Protection Improvement Plan. Sally Ann Kelly told

parent group members about the crime of neglect becoming stronger which the group is concerned about.

Carolyn:

Stated that there was no update on The Best Start Review at present; she will follow up with colleagues. She stated that policy areas need to no longer work in silos, however, parenting needs to be embedded into the wider policy context. Carolyn also highlighted that there were links between the parenting work and Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy and that she is in close contact with the lead on this.

Oonagh added that she had attended a meeting to develop the guidance for those working with young parents and that the links between this work and support for parents with learning disabilities were being teased out.

Fiona:

Gave an update on redesigning health information for Parents. This included working with parents to produce health information as well as workforce development regarding accessing digital literacy of both parents and staff and support learning around the redesign of Ready Steady Baby App. There is also an ongoing review of the CHANGE resources and Easy Read options as well as a redesign of other print resources including Ready Steady Baby, Ready Steady Toddler, Good Egg Home Safety Guide and moving the Young Parent Survival Guide online.

Jean:

Stated that Bianca and Jane had been to a Health Visitor Programme Leaders meeting and offered to deliver training to Health Visitor students. Bianca and Jane have delivered the training to students in some of the universities. All five universities providing health visitor education and training have strengthened the Learning Disability input within their courses.

Reflections from Members

Clare suggested a roundtable regarding pathways for parents with learning disabilities and how to integrate this into existing pathways. Carolyn will take this to health visitors and those involved in the Best Start Review.

Future meetings

Clare will liaise with Carolyn to get dates for next year.

Actions

- Circulate the minutes of this meeting and the papers with amendments from this meeting will be circulated for further comment (Clare & Oonagh)
- Make amendments to documents (Oonagh, Clare & Andy)
- Circulate actions from the May Meetings and updates on progress (Oonagh, Clare, and Andy)
- Produce material brief for approval based on the supporting documents once amended (Pauline & Caroline)

Next Meeting

Clare will speak to Carolyn to get dates for next year.

