



www.rpcf.co.uk

Tel: 01709 296262

Written Statement of Action (SEND) Listening Event **24.01.2022**

Contents

Background - Page 1

Methodology - Page 1-2

Opening Statement and slides from Nathan Heath - Page 2

Statements from Julie Day - Page 3

Comments from Jayne F - Strategic Manager for RPCF and Louise - Operations Manager for RPCF - Page 3

Recommendations from the Session - Page 4

Appendix A - Slide Presentation

Appendix B – Initial Consultation Results prior to the event

Appendix C - Questions and Responses (menti)

Appendix D – Questions and Responses on the day

Appendix E – Ofsted, Care Quality Commission Report July 2021

Background

A number of families contact RPCF directly with experiences around the issues they are experiencing described in the Ofsted local area inspection report of July 21.

RPCF are committed to facilitating the voice and lived experience of families to reduce isolation, gather a collective voice and ultimately enable better outcomes for our young people. We are committed to working in partnership with services to shape the delivery of services our families receive. The aim of this session is looking to inform and work in partnership with parents/carers across Rotherham borough of the action being taken to address the areas of concern identified by Ofsted and CQC.

RMBC have been tasked by Ofsted to produce a WSoA focusing on each of the areas of significant weakness identified by the inspectors. The WSoA sets the time frame which may be long term or short term (within 18 months) which will demonstrate progress.

RPCF are aware of some questions/queries families have around the areas of weakness identified – It was suggested that a Q and A menti session for parents present at the event would give a snapshot of the current experience of parent/carers.

Methodology



Company limited by Guarantee
Registered Charity 1147969

RPCF facilitated a virtual session with senior leads on the project to address this and invited questions from participants.

Seventeen parents were in attendance including RPCF volunteers and staff.

Participants remained muted throughout with option to use the chat facility for clarification.

Colleagues in attendance were.

Julie Day – Head of SEND

Nathan Heath - Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion

Opening Statements

Nathan Heath - Interim director for children's services – Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Nathan opened by addressing the local area inspections findings from Ofsted and CQC.

See Ofsted, Care Quality Commission report July 2021 - Appendix E

Following a local area inspection in July 21 OFSTED and CQC outlined that RMBC have a number of key areas of significant weakness and are required to publish a Written Statement of Action which will be published on the local offer, that Rotherham will take forward to address the four areas of weakness. This was submitted on 20th January. It's important that the WSoA is accessible to all and holds strong accountability in Rotherham. We have a SEND partnership board where we work to enhance SEND services, a strategic partnership and to enhance that an Executive Board has been created to support strong accountability of the WSoA. The Executive includes the Director of Children's Services, Director of Adult Services, Lead Executive Officers from the CCG and health and local authority to hold accountability.

Realistically the time frame for the WSoA to turn around SEND improvement is around 18 month from the date of the OFSTED Inspection, however we are waiting for an update from OFSTED regarding the new SEND inspection framework and we may be inspected in line with the new frame work. We have to be ambitious and in recognition to the areas, we need to drastically improve and drive forward key actions to address that.

There is going to be a strong level of accountability against impact. The four areas are:

- **The quality of EHCP including Health and Social care**
- **Communication of the Local Offer**
- **The embedding of the graduated response in KS1, KS2 and the impact that can have**
- **Preparation for adulthood**

See Slide presentation of WSoA – Appendix A

Julie Day – Head of SEND

We will be ensuring ongoing involvement from parents carers and RPCF.

Company limited by Guarantee
Registered Charity 1147969



There are four subgroups each one which has been identified in the WSoA, there is parent representation in each subgroup. Also some tasks may fall parallel to the sub groups e.g: A subgroup regarding Quality Assurance for EHC plans is already set up which has parental involvement. Some of the development tasks may form part of the subgroup but some may not. We need you to feel confident to continue any work that doesn't form part of the WSoA , please stay involved.

In the 4 subgroups ,RPCF, headteachers, EPS, Adult service leads and commissioning are involved in co-chairing and contributing, SEND lead will meet with the chairs of the group monthly and give feed back to the executive group. The executive group are acting as triage and decision making to help with blockers and to ensure that the information is passed to the SEND strategic board, senior leadership team dealing with SEND business as usual.

Louise – Operations Manager for RPCF

Louise asked if anyone had any questions and encouraged questions. Also encouraged people to get involved as we represent parents voices and want to actively involve and encourage their involvement, so we can represent their views accurately. We are always on the lookout for more strategic representatives to continue this work we want to absolutely ensure that parents voices are heard within this work.

Jayne F - Strategic Manager for RPCF - added comments in the chat: We are facilitating future consultations and events such as this to gather experience and views in relation to each of the areas of concern that will then feed into the next steps, action plans at strategic level, what discussions are needed and anything else coming through from the lived experience and feedback from families.

Initial consultation results prior to the event - Appendix B

Questions and Responses on the day - Appendix D

Louise – Thanks to Julie and Nathan, we can see that you are committed and trying to drive things forward for families children and young people. Thank you for giving the presentation and answering the questions.

This initial event covers all areas, future events will be on the 4 specific areas

Appendix C - Questions and responses (menti)

Questions and responses on menti regarding the key areas of significant weakness identified by Ofsted:

- The quality of EHCP including Health and Social care
- Communication of the Local Offer
- The embedding of the graduated response in KS1, KS2 and the impact that can have
- Preparation for adulthood

Discussions took place throughout the menti session relating to the above topics.

Recommendations from the session and next steps

- We will continue the discussions possibly with the use of menti in the future.
- This initial first steps meeting will inform how we move forward working together.
- Menti responses on the 4 areas will be shared with the WSoA subgroups to inform action plans
- A further 3 events focussed on PfA, EHC and graduated response.
- Nathan recommended; when we do the area focus sessions the sub group leads for the WSoA will be in attendance to share progress and plans.
- This report will be circulated to parents and sub groups, SEND strategic Board and executive board.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, lived experience and sharing what works and what barriers are experienced informs policy and practice and ultimately creates better outcomes for our children and young people and their families. Together we make a difference.

Anyone interested in being part of one or more of the subgroups please contact us at kayleigh@rpcf.co.uk

Local offer work is ongoing with RPCF and requires a team of parents and young people to be actively involved, contact us at catherine@rpcf.co.uk