

## Minutes of the Peer Support Group Meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

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**Present:** Maxine Smith (Lambeth Council) Sharon Kitson (Contact a Family) Councillor Jane Pickard, HBW, SB, SW, DC, MM, M, Joseph Healy (DASL) Sean Mc Govern (DASL) Sharon Stockman (Head of Service CYPS)

**Minutes of the April meeting:** The issue of the lower DP rates for CYPS came up again. Cllr Pickard said that she had not remembered it being raised at the February meeting on CYPS but she would raise it. The DP Charter was discussed and Cllr Pickard asked for a copy to be sent to her.

**CYPS Consultation:** It was suggested using the recent 2015 consultation as a basis.

**Meeting with Colin Slasberg:** The meeting with Colin Slasberg is arranged for May 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a discussion about Colin's ideas regarding new ways of recording unmet need etc. Cllr Pickard said that Personalisation had been originally very broad (taking a child on a caravan holiday etc) but was now very narrow.

**DBS for CYPS:** There was a discussion about how difficult and protracted it is to get a DBS check completed before a PA can be employed. This is proving a real barrier in recruiting staff. It was agreed that Lambeth would approach the Met Police to ask if the process can be speeded up. There was also a complaint that Lambeth are not keeping parents informed about the progress of DBS checks. Sharon Stockman said that applications submitted online are far quicker than paper applications. She said that she would review the process of submitting applications via Serena and thought that there could be other avenues. She was meeting Serena that day and this was one of the issues which would be discussed. Parents said that there was a lot of confusion as to who was chasing up the DBS checks and how the process operated. Sharon said that Serena was not alone and that she had a team backing her up. CYPS had also changed from the Framework system to Mosaic.

**Sharon Stockman:** Sharon introduced herself as the new Head of Service of CYPS. She said that there was now a new Transitions Team with a new manager at its head. This team would deal with those over 14. There was also a new integrated team looking at payments – Adults and CYPS and later Health – this would be fully up and running in early autumn. A manager will always take responsibility and deal with a case. If people cannot contact Serena or a social worker, cases should be sent to Carol Roach or Sharon. Duty social workers should also be asked to deal with case issues. Denise said that there had been a visible improvement since Sharon and Carol had started managing the service. There were quite a number of new social workers in the team and a new booklet was being sent out to parent carers soon. Aged 14 a young person will be transferred to a Transitions Worker but overall responsibility will remain with Children With Disabilities.

**Training:** DC was the only parent who was able to attend the Being a Good Employer course run by Skills for Care as Lambeth Council had agreed to subsidise her. No parents were eligible to attend the courses under current funding regulations. Cllr Pickard agreed to approach Skills for Care to see if funding could be secured for parents.

**PA Training:** The meeting said that people had not been aware of training courses for PAs. It was agreed to contact Lauren to raise this and ask Lambeth if there could be more publicity in future around PA training.

**Contact a Family:** Sharon Kitson said that Contact a Family were happy to give as much information as possible to parents.

The meeting thanked Cllr Pickard and Sharon Stockman for attending and it was agreed to have another meeting on Children & Young People in the next few months.