Protocol for CiC with SEND Training 2021

Needs identified

Needs identified:

Delays in securing appropriate education provision can impact on outcomes for CYP, affect wider life changes and create care placement instability / breakdown.

Given the level of complexity for children in care with SEND relating to:

- Applications for needs assessments
- Funding
- Admissions
- Transferring EHCPs when a child moves between counties

it is essential that there is a clear protocol detailing each professional's responsibilities and training is delivered to empower all parties in their role, in order to minimise drift

Virtual School Actions

A Protocol document was drafted by the Cambridgeshire Virtual School in collaboration with SEND, ART and social care. It was agreed at Assistant Director / Director level.

The focus was to prioritise the education provision for Cambridgeshire Children in Care during the consultation process within Cambridgeshire.

The document made the following commitments for the Cambridgeshire Local Authority:

- Virtual School and Statutory Assessment Team will be notified as early as possible about a potential placement move for any of our Cambridgeshire Children in Care
- Priority will be given for consideration of an EHCP application at the next panel
- Where the EHCP assessment process has started and the child moves out of county, Cambridgeshire will complete the process
- The Statutory Assessment Team will consult for tuition within 2 days, wherever the child lives
- If the CYP is placed in Cambridgeshire, SAT will consult with all possible education placements within 2 days
- Cambridgeshire are responsible for all funding linked to the child's EHCP, whether the CYP is placed in Cambridgeshire or not.

The Virtual School agreed to deliver a training programme to all the service areas involved as well as Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs). These training events were delivered virtually from February to June 2021.

We asked those who attended the training to rate their knowledge of SEND at the beginning and end of the sessions using a scale of 0-10, 0 being low 10 being high.

The training covered the processes involved in applying for an Education Health Care plan, information around processes that should take place when a child has an EHCP, Post 16 EHCP processes and the Protocol document.

Cambridgeshire's Virtual School

Outcomes

- The training was delivered to 20 teams across the service areas:
  Social Care Children in Care Teams
  Social Care Disability Teams
  Social Care Safeguarding Teams
  IRO's
  Statutory Assessment Team
  Virtual School
  Access to Resources and ISEPS team
- On average the score for improved knowledge of SEND moved from 3 – 8.
- Comments and feedback indicated that:
  - information around EHCPs was highly valuable in empowering colleagues to have more purposeful conversations with school settings.
  - Currently, the Virtual School and Statutory Assessment Teams are being notified of potential placement moves early on, enabling these areas to offer support and advice on provisions in a local area around appropriate school provisions.
  - Work has become more co-ordinated with other professionals and this increased level of information sharing is benefitting children and young people.
  - Social workers recognise the importance of involving other service areas when new education settings are being sought.

Next Steps

- A Steering group meets termly to review any specific issues identified by any team and consider two questions
  - Was the protocol followed? if not what was the barrier – to be picked up by relevant team leader / Head of Service
  - Is there is gap in the protocol? If so what changes / additions are required
- The Protocol document is formally reviewed annually to address any gaps or updates required.
- Webinars of approximately 10 minutes long are being created for new starters across these areas and will include:

  1. Applying for an EHCP
  2. Processes for when a child has an EHCP
  3. Post 16 and the EHCP
  4. The Protocol document