

Notes for RPCAG Consultation June /July 2011

- Speech and Language therapy understaffed
- Recruiting newly qualified therapists
- Not trained in autism specific communication methods
- Has to be more than ABA or PECS models- what about Intensive Interaction or Hannen Programme?
- If staff member is sick or has to go on maternity leave or is made redundant then there is no back up.
- Need to recruit trained, older, more experienced therapists.
- Need to improve staff retention not good to have 3 SALT in one school year.
- Some parents report that therapy provision is dictated to them by the therapists...always to reduce the provision
- Therapy departments failing to complete Statement reviews
- SEN Statement requirements not being met for many reasons
If not met then the Borough is negligent and acting outside of the law.
- Child requirements for therapies in Borough need to be raised to maximum number of hours not minimum to secure parents in educating their children in Borough.
- Parents concerned with merge with Kingston. Therapy provision there is much less than Richmond, it is known.
- Parent suggestion: Cut down on admin staff.
- Physiotherapy Provision problematic as slow progress is seen as no progress by the physiotherapy team

- Lack of support for those children with Downs Syndrome by ophysio team
- Therapy groups after school as an option.
- LSAs- schools hiring staff with no training or poor quality training

Schools SENCOs that take on a large proportion of children with special needs should be part of the consultation process and sit on relevant panels

- RPCAG Ditto-part of consultation process and sit on panels.
- Parents worried that if Richmond shares resources with Kingston, there maybe an excuse not to improve services here.
- Parents worried about accountability, funding and monitoring of services.
- First Richmond PCT merging with Hounslow now SEN Services merging with Kingston.
- Parents worried that Hounslow's debt could be taken over by Richmond and result in NHS services being slashed in Richmond especially for our children.
- Not enough social workers, social workers leaving are being replaced by unqualified assistants going into Family's homes with little knowledge of services on offer.
- The Borough needs to address the problem of SEN provision at secondary level.
- Not enough
- Standards need to be raised.
- Academy schools able to pick and choose pupils-what will happen to ours?

- Parents not being asked for their views by Educational Psychologist. Prior to decisions being made.
- RPCAG disappointed that we had to learn that there was a plan for SEN services merging with Kingston from the local newspaper. We attended the CWDL meeting – why was it not announced then?
- Therapies and educational funding at this stage will lead to more communicative and able young adults. Money is at present being thrown at mental health and residential homes. This could be avoided in many cases if the investment in children with special needs was made at this early stage.