



YOUNG INSPECTORS

Young Inspectors report on Educational Health Care Plan

Address: N/A

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Number of Young Inspectors present: Four Young Inspectors present

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Short Breaks have introduced the ‘Young Inspectors’ program as part of the service commitment to provide:

‘The opportunity for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs to contribute to the decision-making and development of services for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs on the Isle of Wight’.

The report is written in an easy read report and has also had the help of the young inspectors leaders to write it.

The Young Inspectors reviewed the educational health care plan based on the following areas deemed important to them. The inspection is part of an agreement between Short Breaks and the provider highlighted within the S.L.A. This is what the Young Inspectors found:

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1.0 Introduction: Why we inspected Educational health care plan?

The new Educational health care plan was asked to be inspected by Young inspectors by service manager Rob Winfield, this was to include the voice of young people and establish what worked well when filling out the health care plan on an individual basis as well as a group.

2.0 Methodology: How we inspected Education health care plan?

The set up to gain the best opinions of the young people were to do some parts of the health care plan on an individual basis and some within a focus group. As a group we went through the care plan explaining what it is. Some young people were aware that this was happening and said they preferred it to the old statement. All young people were informed what was happening and what was expected of them. Refreshments were on hand and all young people got to choose where they sat and made sure they felt comfortable, they were also told if there was something they did not want to discuss they did not have to and they were given visual cards so they either had the choice to verbalise this or use the visual.

3.0 Summary of Findings: What the Young Inspectors found

When explaining what the education, health care plan was to young people they liked the idea and said it would be better than the old statement. One young person explained that in her old school they wouldn't apply for a statement for her and this made her angry and upset because she needed help and struggled at school, she said that she likes that everyone can apply themselves and that her new school had applied for this and mum had received the paper work really quickly. She also said it was good that you knew the date it would be coming back (the deadline from when you would hear back).

When looking at the plans to begin one of the young inspectors could not read the font as it was too small so this would need to be considered upon an individual basis.

The young inspectors really liked the views and interests part but some of the young people did not understand what it meant by wishes, as they said wishes weren't to do with schools.

With regard to section B they said that there were some hard words on here but most of them they had seen before. When we were going through the words some of young people were offended that mental health was on their however, I did explain it may not directly be instigated at them. They also said they would really struggle to come up with strengths for themselves and hope that someone would be able to tell them their strengths, but only for the ones they agreed with to be put down. The word strength also had to be explained that it wasn't physical strengths but things they were good at.

The same was done with regard to section B (2) and section C they fully understood. Most of the young people involved did have health care needs as well as learning disabilities. They were extremely happy about the plan and how it combined all of their needs and there weren't lots of different papers.

Section D: My social care needs

When discussing this with young people they didn't understand what this meant and said they would like it written down in a brief description, so they would be able to understand this, they also suggested having examples so that young people would be able to distinguish what was being asked.

Section E: Outcomes

All of the young inspectors were worried about the outcome part of the care plan, this was mainly because they were worried they would not meet these outcomes, they also explained that there was a lot to think about and that these were scary questions. Also one of the young people explained she would make sure she wouldn't reach her outcomes because she would be too scared if she reached them her help would be taken away from her.

Section F: the young people explained that they liked the lay out and it was all spaced out nicely. However, one of the issues that came up was that they found it hard to think about their support because when they tell them where they need support sometimes people don't agree. So they would like more input on their support given. They also stated that if they were asked what support they needed sometimes they don't know what support or they may lie to the person asking them as they don't know how to express what they want to say. When I asked how would this be easier? They said they feel like they can talk to the involvement officer (Kristy Moore) especially in groups such as the Young inspectors. Some of the young inspectors said they would rather do this outside of school as one of the young people explained he doesn't like his learning support assistant but wouldn't

feel comfortable in saying that at school; however he would in a group outside of school.

Section G: the young inspectors felt this was good and they would speak openly regarding their health provisions.

Section H1 and H2: Social care provisions

The young people's feelings on this were that sometimes when they have asked for support regarding school or social care; it doesn't mean they get the support. They also stated that 'managers up high' decide if they get support when they don't know them or what they are going through. They also feel those different times in their life they felt they needed more support and sometimes they felt they could be more independent, so this needs to be reviewed more in the eyes of the young inspectors.

All about me

When moving on to the section called all about me the young inspectors were quite excited by this and enjoyed talking about themselves. They said they felt that people would be able to see who they were rather than just a care plan or a condition. The young people did feel that the boxes need to be bigger and the font as they wanted to write lots of things in there.

They said that using the word communicate in 'How I communicate' was too long a word and they all said by talking, when I said to them does anyone use pictures or Makaton they said they do but they wouldn't think to write that in the box.

They discussed the things that were important to them and come up with some ideas which were important to them which were: The dog, family, Xbox, sports and sailing.

When discussing what they would like to change within their lives they explained about extra time for home work and exams, more 1:1 support at school, change of LSA as it puts them off going to school if they don't like them or understand them. Again they brought up if this was done in school they would be too scared to say what was wrong in case they got in trouble or the problem was with the person asking. They made it very clear they would like choices on who asked them the questions and they asked why there couldn't be someone at school who could take them out of school to talk to about worries they had. They also stated that teachers and LSA's were nicer when questionnaires need to be filled out. The young inspectors additionally felt that their moods connect with how they are feeling, so it would depend on how they felt that day as things may change.

The young people felt excited and the mood changed when discussing things they wanted to in the future they had very ambitious things they wanted to do and felt it was a good aspiration for them to have. To begin with they all said it was too

hard to think about the future but when talking to their peers they found this extremely useful and started discussing their future plans. One of the biggest aspirations for most of the young people was to go on holiday to another country or go to Disney Land.

The last question 'Other things I want to tell you' confused all of our young people and they didn't understand whether it was school or home, and asked if this could be broken down or changed as they felt them and other young people may feel confused by this.

Young people also said they would like all this to be broken down as it was quite a lot to go through all in one go and professionals may get better information if the questions are asked with a break in between or over a period of time.

The parental contribution of the education, health care plan we asked parents to come into the room and ask their opinions as well as the young people. Young people and adults felt like they didn't know how much to write when it came to 'our family' as well as on some of the other boxes. However, they said it was simple and personal and like the new form, they also felt it was more about the young person and their needs rather than their diagnosis.

Personal budget:

One of young inspectors knew a lot about the personal budget and explained what it was to the other members of the group, he had a very good understanding what exactly it was and explained it really well to the rest of the group.

The young people really enjoyed talking about this and said they liked the idea and said it was good if you were capable to be able to do this.

Some of the things that they wanted help with were help in school, more help for physical disabilities like the choice of physiotherapy or hydro therapy.

One of the biggest things that all the young people said was they would like the money to be able to buy support who could help them get into work, as many of the young people expressed how much they wanted to work when they were older but wanted the confidence to be able to go and do work experience.

4.0 Recommendations: How the Education, health care plan be made better?

Recommendations from the young inspectors have been entered in this report following the issues they have found. In brief points these are the improvement young inspectors recommend.

The Font and boxes need to be bigger this is based on an individual basis.

Some of the wording needs to be looked at as some of the young people got confused, (wishes, and communication) or a briefer description of what is expected from the question.

Struggling with finding strengths for them was an issue and they would like help however, they emphasised that they wanted to help come up with what they are good at. The wording again had to be explained to the young people as some took the word strength literally.

The outcome part of the care plan seemed to worry all of our young inspectors, explanatory reasoning and reassurance needs to be around this so that young people do not feel scared, and that this is a positive because 100% of young people were either worried or frightened by this part.

Issues regarding their support young people found hard to answer and said they did not feel comfortable expressing their voice and opinion within school because they were worried about the repercussions, many wanted to do it outside of school and emphasised they wanted to do this with someone of their choice. They also felt the Young inspectors were the only place their voice was made productive.

The social care provisions confused some of the Young inspectors and they felt that their voice needed to be heard more in this area and that support needed to be reviewed at various times in their life.

The questions other things I would like to tell you our young people felt it needed to be changed and more structured as they found this difficult and didn't know what to say. They also did not know what context this was meant in either at home or school.

Parents asked for guidance notes along with the parental contribution with details or examples on exactly what to write as they know how important the information is and didn't want to over write or under write any information.

5.0 Review analysis: - What we reviewed

What we are analysing, considering. What are the motivational factors influencing children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs to participate in Short Breaks Provisions?

The overall thoughts regarding the Education, health care plan was good and young people were pleased with it and found it was more personal and thought it was nice to see the set up as some of the young people had never seen their statement even though they would have liked to. The overall thoughts regarding the personal budget was viewed in a positive note and the found it very exciting that they may be able to have more of a say regarding their care and schooling.

6.0 Provider Feedback

This section is for the Activity Provider/Manager to comment on the YIP report and contest with any discrepancies or perceived inaccuracies and highlight how they plan to work towards meeting the aims of YI through

Provider consultation - suggests a need to speak over report with line manager/program worker prior to being published within the public domain.

A really helpful and constructive review of the Isle of Wight Council's Education, Health and Care Plan.

The comments and recommendations made by the Young Inspectors will be taken on board. For example, the font size of the Plan will be considered on an individual basis and enlarged where necessary.

The Isle of Wight Council will look to create guidance notes for the Plan so that children/young people have an understanding of the different sections of the plan and it reassures them about any worries they may have particularly in light of the comments made about outcomes and the possibility that they (child/young person) may not achieve their outcomes - perhaps the Young Inspectors would like to be involved in putting together a young person's guide to the Education, Health & Care Plan?

The 'My Story' or 'All About Me' as the Young Inspectors have referred to it was originally designed in conjunction with children/young people in the primary, secondary and special school sectors. The boxes the child/young person completes do get bigger as they are completed which was a point raised by the Inspectors. Again, this review does highlight the need for some guidance notes to be prepared for children/young people and/or the person who is helping them complete the form. As earlier, perhaps any guidance notes could be prepared with the Young Inspectors or, at the very least, them asked to review any prepared by the Isle of Wight Council.

The Isle of Wight Council will also need to consider the comments made by the Young Inspectors around a child/young person's worry about not being able to express their voice/opinion in school without repercussions. Information will need to be made available to them of the services they can access to get their thoughts and opinions across with someone they choose. Other than their parents/carers or school staff of their choosing, this service is available to them through either the Independent Supporters or Parent Partnership.

In summary, it is really pleasing to hear that children/young people think that the Education, Health & Care Plan is good and that they feel this new system will involve them more in making decisions about their care and schooling.