

Brighton & Hove



FAIRNESS COMMISSION SUPPORTING PAPERS

6.00PM, THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2015

SUSSEX COUNTY CRICKET GROUND - HOVE

SUPPORTING PAPERS

ITEM

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ITEM 7 - PRESENTATION FROM ADRIAN CARVER

Improving life chances for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – Adrian Carver, Headteacher for Downs View School and Downs View Link College.

SEND in Brighton & Hove – Fairness?

Adrian Carver

Headteacher – Downs View
School & Link College

10/12/15

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

**Research
CharterMark**



Context

- 1 A lot to cover in 10 minutes or so!
 - Broad themes & generalities
- 1 Thank you for this opportunity
- 1 A 'Brightonian'
- 1 Biography & roles
- 1 Please follow up ***anything*** which requires elaboration/further detail by contacting me
- 1 The concept of fairness

Fairness

- 1 SEND – inherently unfair
- 1 Is it fair that SEND gets only this slot?
- 1 Is it fair that SEND is often not on the ‘agenda’ for a whole range of meetings?
- 1 Is it fair that I get 10 minutes to discuss an issue that has been my professional passion since 1979 & a personal necessity since 1962?
- 1 That said... what are our SEND fairness issues?
- 1 Difficult to divorce local from national context

Access & Equality

- 1 19-25 year olds, but no additional money
- 1 19+ in Brighton & Hove
 - Equity
 - Life long learning
 - Impact on adulthood & ongoing wellbeing
 - Potential even for the most profoundly disabled
- 1 Community services – segregation in an inclusive city – but loss of clubs (eg BHIP).
- 1 Inclusion & access to peers

Access & Equality - 2

- 1 Learning Difficulties vs SEMH criteria for respite
- 1 Cut to short break money & direct payments as more families join system
- 1 The new integrated provisions but what about SEND children included in mainstream schools?

Access & Equality - 3

- 1 Areas but also pockets of socio-economic deprivation – support focused in areas not pockets (eg pre school)
- 1 Travel – difficulties & cost
- 1 Benefits changes – harder & harsher re SEND. New Personal Independence Payments (PIP) vs DLA
- 1 44% of parent carers of children with SEND are in single parent households

Unemployment & Employability

- 1 Employment consultation last Tuesday – SEND not mentioned once
- 1 Learning Partnership then Learning Employment & Skills Partnership
 - SEND rarely features
 - what employers want vs what our community needs

Unemployment & Employability - 2

- 1 Issue of apprenticeships – L2
- 1 Loss of L1 courses in colleges, loss of NACRO
- 1 Job coaching – city is an employer (eg HTH opportunity)
- 1 ‘Able & Willing’ – Knoll Business Park
- 1 NEET data – 42% @ 20+ (self identifying as having a learning difficulty) – we have employable students

Early Years & Early Intervention

- 1 Importance of early intervention – life long impact
- 1 Cuts EY consultants & Specialist EY Educational Psychologist
- 1 Change to EPS/LSS - PRESENS
- 1 Loss of children's centres?
- 1 Need to travel to cheaper (charitable) settings out of neighbourhood.
 - Compounded by poorer resourcing there

The 'System'

- 1 Incompatible agendas – floor standards & inclusion
- 1 What is valued but unachievable – GCSE standard but no jobs
 - 16-19 yr unemployment is 45%, (national 25%)
- 1 Inter-generational unemployment

The 'System' - 2

- 1 Access to services & transport issues – eligibility criteria, buses
- 1 Awareness of services – reduction of support & advice (eg Amaze).
- 1 SENDIST; socio-economic issue, families that are able to fight
- 1 'real education' – SEND leisure time, volunteering

Recommendations

- 1 Positive discrimination by employers
 - Employers with a social conscience
 - Getting employers in (BACA)
- 1 19+ for all
- 1 Tackle NEET issue
 - College courses & pastoral support
 - Better internship programmes/job coaching for non level 2 learners
 - Better transition support; aligned child/adult services

Recommendations - 2

- 1 SEND proposals – resource / implement – extended/waking day, family support – but remember mainstream children & inclusion
- 1 ‘Spend to save’
 - SEND world is a fragile & costly world
 - Value of systems, including voluntary sector, who can attract charitable funding & draw funds in (increase benefit take up)

Recommendations - 3

- 1 SEND being on the agenda *always* in future
 - Not an afterthought
 - Not marginalised or isolated
 - “No one left behind”

Contact me

Website:

<http://www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk/>

Email:

adriancarver@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Telephone: 01273 601680



