***Making Changes Together Conference XXII***

***Thursday 23rd May 2019***

***Ramside Hall Hotel***

1. Supported Employment
2. SENDIASS Youth Offer – the journey so far
3. Durham County Carers Support
4. 'How to Hide your Autism: The legacy of Masking and Burnout for Autistic children' - Kieran Rose, The Autistic Advocate
5. ‘Strategy and Health Needs Analysis’
6. eXtreme Group
7. Supporting Children with SEND in the Early Years
8. Designated Clinical Officer
9. Summary Evaluation Feedback

***Making Changes Together Conference XXII***

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***Progression and Learning – Supported Employment***

These presentations were led by Linda Bailey and Alison Rice

* Supported Internships – Forum/Co-ordinator Stuart Cannon
* DurhamWorks
* Durham Advance
* Supported Employment Programme

**Supported Internship**

*Purpose, Membership and Plan*

Linda explained that the purpose of the internship is to study full time within 6month – 1Year and will be based with employer and help them to develop skills and to eventually gain employment through this scheme. The colleges support the internships and the co-ordinator Stuart Cannon is gathering more opportunity’s out there with employees around this. Contact details for Stuart are [stuart.canon@durham.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.canon@durham.gov.uk).

**DurhamWorks**

DurhamWorks are supporting unemployed 15-24-year olds helping them into employment, education or training.

Current statistics are as follows

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **April 2019** | **Number** | **Completed** | **Progressed to EET** | **Progressed to Employment** |
| Total Participants | 5,797 | 51.6% (2,989) | 88.6%(2647) | 72.0% (1,906) |
| Total Participants with SEND | 1,531 | 49.1% (752) | 80.6% (606) | 55.9% (339) |

There are also commissioning employment pathways for those with SEND place. Contact details please see website [www.durhamworks/info](http://www.durhamworks/info)

**Durham Advance**

Durham Advance are supporting those out of work and aged 25 and over with health conditions, as well as residents over 50 years old. They help to overcome barrier and move into employment, education or training. They can offer information, advice and guidance to those looking to return to work, contact details [www.durham.gov.uk/employability](http://www.durham.gov.uk/employability).

***Adult Learning and Skills Service – Supported Employment Programme***

Adult Learning and Skills Supported Employment offer Future Focus Life and Work Skills, Supported Internship and Traineeship

There was two Supported Internships Case Studies one was a young girl Chloe Birrell (Video Link below)

[<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rthJVu3x6nUUpetZ0giZYV8NoWzGTmtw/view?usp=sharing>](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rthJVu3x6nUUpetZ0giZYV8NoWzGTmtw/view?usp=sharing)

Also, Alison Mounter – parent of Steven Mounter – Alison expressed how Steven is autistic and when her attend Oak Secondary school he started showing on interest in outdoors and animals. This opened an opportunity to attend Houghall college to study his Maths and English and 4 days a week at Weather Rigs Animal Rescue volunteering, and with support and help from Kate Clennell helps Stephen to build his confidence, travel remotely preparing him into adulthood and giving us as a family hope for his future.

There are opportunities to attend a Changes Programme Course, this is *Information, Advice and Guidance for parents and carers who have children/young people with SEND*, it is a six week course and delivered once a week on a Wednesday. If you require any more information, then please see handout attached.

***SENDIASS YOUTH OFFER – The Journey so far***

This presentation was led by Chris

Children’s and families Act 2014 (part 3)

The Act has **NINE** main aims to help children and young people with special educational needs from birth to age 25. For the first time, young people aged 16-25 have the right to ask for their needs to be assessed, the right to say which college they want to go to, and the right to make appeals about the support they receive and make informed decisions.

* One - Getting education, health care and social care services working together.
* Two – Telling children, young people what they need to know about their SEN needs and services.
* Three - Making sure children, young people with SEN know about what help is out there and what they can get.
* Four - Making sure that different organisations work together to help children and young people with special educational needs.
* Five – For children and young people to have more say about the help they receive and how they receive it.
* Six - Having one overall assessment to look at what special help a child or young person needs with their education, and their health and social care needs, all at the same time.
* Seven - A child or young person to have one plan for meeting their education, health and social care needs, which can run from birth to age 25 if the LA agree that a young person needs more time to get ready for adulthood.
* Eight - Making sure children, young people have access to information to make more informed decisions about their education.
* Nine – Providing support for a child or young person who needs help to appeal.

**This is some of the work been done since the SEND reforms**

* Supported over 300+ young people with IAS and on the increase.
* Completed 220 “My story’s” for children and young people EHCP’s
* Completed 67 talking mats ® for children with social communication difficulties since 2017.
* Played a key role in developing the Durham’s “youth offer” on the family’s information service.
* Facilitated the annual Durham young people’s “future” event.
* Worked with Children and young people across Durham on the “autism review”
* Supported Young people for the “welcome video” for the Local area inspection
* Support 4 young people to prepare for SEND tribunals
* Developed strong links with post 16 college/provisions and organisations.

**So, what is new**

* SENDIASS development officer.
* SENDIASS young person’s poster youth groups)
* SENDIASS young person’s information leaflet
* SEND I-ZONES – weekly information/advice drop in sessions across 4 areas of Durham (term-time)
* SEND “champions” secondary/post 16.
* SENDIASS website being updated

**Below is any useful links which was provided to access any further information**

<https://www.talkingmats.com/>

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/19445/Young-People-s-Future-Event->

<http://www.durhamsendiass.info/>

[http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info](http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/)

<http://investinginchildren.net/>

<https://www.cwyproject.org.uk/>

***Durham County Carers Support***

This presentation was led by Emma Whitelock – Parent Carer Support and Development Worker

Durham County Carers is a voluntary organisation which supports unpaid Carers who are over the age of 18 and who live in County Durham.

Information for Parent’s and Carer’s are as listed below

* No specific diagnosis needed
* You do not need to be receiving Carers Allowance
* Both parents and grandparents can register if they have a caring role

**Parent carer needs assessment**  - The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced the right for parents to have a statutory carers assessment with a focus on their needs and wellbeing.

Durham County Carers offer a wide range of training they develop training sessions based on the consultations they have with parents taking into consideration what they think and feel this can include: -

* Autism Awareness
* Stress Management and Resilience
* Self-Harm

They also offer support in claiming the correct benefits that parent’s/carers can be entitled to as well as supporting and applying of grants that are available, including offering support to complete the documentation which can include the following: -

* Benefits
  + Child DLA
  + PIP for under 18s
  + Carers Allowance
* Grant Applications
  + Family Fund
  + Greggs Foundation

They offer a range of activities that can be accessed, which can include all of the family. They have trips coming up in the summer like Adventure Valley, Lightwater Valley, coming up to Christmas pantomime trips. They have a closed Facebook you can access which can keep you up to date with all the most up to date information, DCCS Parent Carers and Consultation Group.

They also offer another range off support as listed below: -

* Carer Discount Card
* Counselling
* Support in multi-agency meetings including TAFS
* Transport Fund
* Early Help Request
* Carer breaks based on assessed need

Parents offer feedback to Durham County Carer’s, some of the feedback from parents/carers include: -

* “I feel better knowing that someone is on our side....They helped me to get professionals to see my point of view”
* “I now know where I can go and receive support. I feel empowered”
* “It is helpful to get information on the different services and groups available”
* “The counselling was a real turning point for me”
* “It helps having someone to talk to about me and my role, not just about the person I care for and their problems and struggles”
* “I didn’t realise I could get help filling in a DLA form...The extra money has been a huge help”
* “I feel valued as a Carer...I feel as though now I have another good support mechanism”

A parent/carer spoke on the link below of how they helped him with the caring role he does: -

Christopher Carer break clip <https://www.youtube.com>[/watch?v=TqEqBJaVFRM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqEqBJaVFRM&feature=youtu.be)

Durham County Carers informed how parents/carers are able to register with them

* Give us a call 0300 005 1213 (we accept self-referrals)
* Professional Referral Pads
* Leaflet reply slip via Freepost

Helen McLaughlin spoke about what her part in been with Durham County Carers has done for her and her family and the support she has had, her son is autistic and that is her main role. But Helen offers support volunteering 4hours a week supporting families completing forms, offering advise and guidance. Supports administration tasks within the office and really enjoys it. “I enjoy working with parents/carers and been able to give something back”

Contact details for Durham County Carers are:-

Emma Whitelock - Parent Carer Support and Development Worker

0191 500 6035 [emma.whitelock@dccarers.org](mailto:emma.whitelock@dccarers.org)

***How to hide your Autism – The Legacy of Masking and Burnout for Autistic Children***

This presentation was led by Kieran Rose

This was very heartfelt and emotional presentation and covered a lot off back ground around how Kieran suffered as a young person.

Kieran did speak openly and emotionally

*“The current culture of Autism is that Professionals decide what Autistic people need, Professionals train other Professionals, Professionals apply the Services; and then Professionals pat each other on the back and tell each other what a good job they’ve done”*

Kieran went on to offer memory’s and quote’s of how he felt throughout his life

*"School... Where ‘reasonable adjustments’ have to be written in law after an extended and lengthy process; agreed upon by a wodge of different professionals and rarely enforced.  Despite the fact that the child is making hundreds of reasonable adjustments just to be in the building."*

*"Inside, a version of me is screaming to be let out.*

*Outside, the Mask comes down.*

*I turn to my Father and ask "Do I look like I've been crying?""  
  
"There is too much reliance on what we think we know, based on what other people thought they knew."  
  
"I shrug to myself sadly, not depressed, not angry, just tired.*

*I’d just like to leave now."  
  
"I think of school again...  It's still just black, still just a sense of hurting and pain and fear, but it feels distant now, far away.  It's a nice feeling."  
  
"Last night I was leaving.*

*Last night i was stepping out and i wasn't scared.*

*The thought of not having to do this anymore made me happy.*

*And I failed at happy."  
  
"We Mask because it keeps us safe. Yet Masking kills us.  
Our lives are a paradox.  
How unsafe must we feel to commit an act of what is effectively self-destruction?"*

Kieran brought the presentation to a close

***The Autistic Advocate – Infinite Autism***

[kieranrose@hotmail.com](mailto:kieranrose@hotmail.com) 07739 011119

***Strategy & Health Needs Analysis– May 2019***

The presentation was led by Paul Shadforth and Helen Riddell

Helen went on to outline the Public Health Priorities within 2018-2020. The role of Public Health are to promote and protect the Health and Wellbeing of all re4sidents of County Durham including Children and Young people, to help and support departments within the Council to ensure they are also working to address health inequalities.

* Promoting positive behaviours
* Healthy workforce
* Mental Health at scale
* Every child to have the best start in life
* Good jobs and places to live, learn and play
* High quality drug and alcohol service
* Better quality of life through integrated health care services

Significant work has taken place so far. The statistic’s for County Durham with SEND are as follows:

* 75,000 school aged children in County Durham, out of these around 11,250 have SEND (that’s around 1 in 7)
* Out of the SEND population 11.4% have their needs met through SEND support
* ASC (Autistic Spectrum Condition) and SEMH (Social, Emotional Mental Health) account for 50% of all special school placements
* 55% of Looked After Children have a recognised SEND
* 38.7% of young people with and EHCP are educated in special school
* Young people with SEND are more than likely to be excluded than their peers
* 176 young people with SEND are in a NON-maintained provision

Looking forward the National Policy is looking at the NHS Long Term Plan this includes: -

* A shift towards **community based** and integrated health services for Children and Young People
* Improve understanding of the needs of Children and Young People with additional needs and work together to improve their health
* Reduce waiting time’s for specialist service’s

Helen went on to engage the group with three key questions below and the feedback from this activity:-

**1.Identify what ‘communities’ you feel are important to you as a family with a child/young person with SEND?**

Top answers included

* School/College/Education settings
* Accessible After School and social clubs
* Social Media

**2. What are the Barriers to accessing?**

Top answers included

* Accessibility
* Transport
* Lack of understanding/inclusion specifically around Autism

**3.What services would you like to see delivered in and through education placements?**

Top answers included

* More training for teaching and non-teaching staff – then it being put into practice
* Mental health specialist support – trauma informed schools
* Dentists

To end the next steps are for the HNA to be completed by September 2019, this will have the recommendations/implementation plan October 2019 and an update presentation at the next MCT Conference in 2019/2020

***Investing in Children – The eXtreme Group***

***Who we are by Emma Bowlzer***

* The eXtreme Group is for young people to have a voice about how services in County Durham treat children and young people with SEND.
* The eXtreme Group is funded by Durham County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups in County Durham
* We go to the eXtreme Group because we want to make County Durham a better place for people like us
* We want to have a big voice for a big County and help influence changes and policies and make life better for people with SEND
* We usually meet once a month on a Thursday night at Investing in Children’s Office at the Sjovoll Centre in Pity Me.

***Accessibility Audit – by Freya McGlone***

The young people went to Freemans Key starting with: -

The Pool Area

It was accessible

* The lockers had numbers in braille
* There were lockers for wheelchairs
* There were large changing areas for families.
* There was wheelchair access for the pool.
* Both pools had hydraulic floors.
* There are hoists to help get into the pools

The Gym

* The Gym:
* It was really accessible
* A knowledgeable instructor who showed us how to adapt equipment to make it more accessible.

Positives:

In the Leisure Centre it had:

* Automatic doors
* Level flooring
* Easy read Blue information signs
* Hearing Loop for hearing impairments
* Tables at different heights
* Well-equipped accessible changing facilities and toilets.
* Accessible gates for wheelchairs
* Lift access to the first floor

Recommendations for improvement

* The lift was quite small – could this be made bigger?
* There could be more spacing between gym equipment.
* There is a trip hazard in the gym by the window overlooking the pool which could be more visible.
* The doors to the pool spectator areas are heavy- automatic doors would be more accessible.
* The use of larger signage and picture symbols would make information more accessible.

***Young People Autism Pack – by Ethan Joyce***

Ethan went on to explain “We would like to support the development of a pack for young people to receive when they receive their Autism diagnosis. Currently parents get a pack, but young people don’t get anything informative”.

“This will take time and we want your feedback and involvement as parents/ carers and professionals who will be supporting young people to access these packs. We have met with CAMHS and Durham County Council to share our ideas and presented this at the Autism Event at County Hall as part of Autism Awareness week. We think the pack should including coping mechanisms and positive examples from people with Autism. All young people should have access to the same information so that it is consistent, but the pack should be adaptable to the individual young person”.

If parents or any young people would like to gather any more information, please contact the following details: -

Phone: 0191 3077030

Email: [info@investinginchildren.net](mailto:info@investinginchildren.net)

Website: [www.investinginchildren.net](http://www.investinginchildren.net/)

Facebook: @IiCYP

Twitter: @iic\_rights

***Supporting Children with SEND in the Early Years – by Fiona Callaghan***

This presentation was led by Fiona Callaghan

Fiona went on to explain the following points of SEND within the Early Years

***Early Identification – Key Partners***

SEND is being recognised a lot sooner in Early years as they are in an education environment from a younger age. It is hard to identify under the age of five.

The key part is the parent of a young child, we should ensure we listen and speak to them. This would lead to the Health Visitor of that child been the first point of contact for the parent raising any major concerns around SEND. We have Portage which is part of the service supporting children under 3 and also Early Years Practitioners, all these supports a parent/carer helping to identify and support within the Early years.

***Early Years Entitlements – Play & Learn – 2-year-old provision & 3- & 4-years olds universal entitlement 30hours***

Play and Learn – Background Information

* We are focussed upon improving outcomes of ‘targeted 2-year olds’ by enabling them to access good quality early years provision.
* If eligible a child can receive 15 hours a week (term time only), or 11 hours a week (50 weeks a year) from the term after their 2nd birthday
* We work closely with family centres, health visitors and other key partners to encourage engagement of all families.

Children are eligible if: -

*Their families are in receipt of*

* Income support
* Income based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
* Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
* Universal Credit – if you and your partner have a combined income from work of £15400 or less a year, after tax
* Tax credits and you have an income of £16190 or less a year, before tax
* The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
* Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
* The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for WTC)

OR

* Are looked after by their local authority
* Have an Education, Health and Care Plan
* Have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order
* Are in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance (DVLA)

***3 and 4-year-old universal entitlement – ALL CHILDREN***

* ALL children are entitled to 15 hours a week (term time ONLY), or 570 hours per year from the term after their 3rd birthday

***The 30 hours funded childcare eligibility criteria is: -***

* **Each** parent (or the sole parent in a single parent family) will need to earn, on average, the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage per week (currently £107 per week), and no more than £100,000 per year. Self-employed parents and parents on zero-hours contracts will be eligible if they meet the average earnings threshold.
* Families where one parent is not in paid employment (or neither parent works) will not usually be eligible for these additional hours. Parents who are studying or in training will not be eligible unless this is combined with paid work which meets the minimum average earnings threshold
* The Government intends to make provision to support families where one parent is in receipt of benefits relating to caring responsibilities or has a disability and the other parent is working, or one parent is on maternity/paternity leave.

To check eligibility and if the government can help with childcare costs use the following link and ‘Google’

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Google – help with childcare costs in County Durham

***Where can children access their early years entitlement?***

Parents will be able to access the funding through all (registered) early years providers:

* Childminders
* Group settings - PVIs
* Out of school providers
* School run early years provision
* Academies
* Breakfast and After School clubs

***High Quality early years provision***

* Early Years Foundation Stage – Play based curriculum
* Quality First teaching (QFT)
* Smaller ratios
* 1:3 children aged 0-2
* 1:4 2-year olds
* 1:8 for 3- and 4-year olds - PVI settings
* 1:13 for 3- and 4-year olds in maintained settings; school and academies and PVI settings with qualified Teacher or Early Years Professional
* Key Worker

***Early Years Team - Equalities and Inclusion Education Development Advisors***

* We offer a countywide service to practitioners, early years providers, family centre’s, schools and other professionals in order to promote inclusion, raise aspirations and improve outcomes for children aged 0-5 with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).
* Childminders
* Private, Voluntary and Independent providers
* Children’s Centre’s
* Schools who offer education and care to younger learners (under 3s)

***The early years SEND panel***

This is a small team based in County Hall to offer support and advise, it was established in September 2016. It involves the following: -

* Multi-agency membership
* The panel supports settings and scholarly identification through to requests for funding and support and/or requests to initiate statutory assessment (EHCP).

***Early years SEND support funding***

Below is a list of what can and cannot be funded: -

What do we fund?

* Enhanced staff ratios
* Equipment
* Training

What we can’t fund

* Childcare places
* Respite placements
* 2-year places if children do not meet the eligibility criteria

***Early years SEND learning support officers***

* 33 staff working across County Durham
* Support individual or small groups of children
* Model practice
* Mentor staff
* Where a member of staff is not available funding and support is offered to the setting

**Disability Access Funding**

The Disability Access Fund aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity (be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children attending the setting);

A child will be eligible when:

* they are in receipt of child disability living allowance and;
* receives free early education in nursery education

The settings of three- and four-year-olds eligible for the DAF will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year.  If the child attends more than one setting their parents will need to determine their main setting and they will receive the whole amount.

If a child moves settings within the year the new setting will not be eligible to receive a payment within that financial year.

***How might settings and schools use the Disability Access Funding?***

* Equipment
* Resources – water bed!
* Swimming lessons
* Training
* Specialist services

***Effective Support***

* Planned and reviewed, with all those who know the child well, including the child
* Supplements high quality universal practice
* Reflects the child’s strengths and personal characteristics of effective learning
* Requires highly skilled practitioners, with good knowledge of how best to support the child’s learning using effective approaches to teaching and learning informed by best practice
* Selective: used at times for a particular purpose

***Effective Provision’s***

* Takes account of what the child can do alone and with support of peers or through differentiated small group approaches
* Encourages increasing independence and peer interactions
* Promotes self-confidence
* Increases inclusion, not isolation
* Takes account of the detail of individual child needs
* Observational, providing accurate feedback child’s learning and development

This closed the end of the Early Years SEND presentation.

***Introduction to Designated Clinical Officer***

This presentation was led by Laura Coulthard

Laura introduced herself as the named health contact for people aged 0-25 with a special education need or disability.

The key role cover’s: -

* To work with health providers (SALT, OT, CAMHS etc) to implement the SEND reforms
* To work together with the LA to improve quality of EHCPs
* Feedback from parents, children, young people and young adults

Laura closed the presentation with requesting that the conference attendees to access the survey link below and the feedback would be presented in the annual review.

* Mentimeter survey 61 78 71

Laura stated her contact details are [Laura.coulthard1@nhs.net](mailto:Laura.coulthard1@nhs.net)

***Feedback and close of the conference***

Everyone was thanked for their time and asked for feedback on the forms provided which is detailed in the appendix below.

***Summary Evaluation Feedback***

***Something I have learnt from today***

* The inside track on masking
* Nothing that I didn’t already know
* Autism from a child or adult perspective
* Lots off information, all very useful
* What other partners do
* Think about the difficulties someone with Autism faces in school
* So many children are not adequately supported in school, it is a postcode lottery
* Importance of young people’s voices. Information on supported employment
* I feel astounded that the children and young people do not receive and information post Autism diagnosis
* How services are reacting to the voices of Autism community
* The role of the designated clinical officer
* I am entitled to carers allowance
* Information on SENDIASS
* Autism burnout – school related
* Support to employment after school
* New services that I never knew existed
* 2-year play and learn entitlement, 30 hours funded childcare
* Life expectancy is 36-54 for autistic people
* The steering group from strength to strength
* Autism services
* New things being put in place for moving from school to college
* Supported employment
* Support that is available from Durham carers, what strimming and masking is
* I found that how to hide your autism very informative. I found investing in children idea of autism packs for newly diagnosed children a fantastic idea
* About services in Durham
* New information on Durham SEN Strategy
* 2-year plan and entitlement, recent developments with support groups and services
* Autism, more details of the condition to help understand children 1-year needs
* Understanding on how Autistic people feel and cope, great speech, thank you for all the information
* Support available to Early Years SEND
* That there is more services than I thought
* Professional Strategy do not always fit every child and alternative should be considered for CYP with send
* Statistics in Autistic people
* Little provision for 10-15-year olds, more information on EHCP needed. A talk by someone like Fiona Callaghan but for 10-15-year old’s or secondary education
* New services I can access
* Autistic people die younger
* How well as a County, things are progressing, what is on offer and upcoming initiatives?
* Statistics are frightening
* How to hide your autism – so informative. New services from SENDIASS
* Some things improve, some things don’t
* Elaine is retiring in August 2019
* How autism effects the child/young people services available to young people varies – locations etc.
* Masking and burnout
* Importance/impact on sensory for individuals

***Something I have felt/experienced today***

* An amazing insight to Autism from the “inside”
* Autistic advocate was very interesting, extreme group were fab
* Listening to Kieron Rose
* Kieron Rose’s personal storey
* Sadness, anger, lack of understanding, acceptance (Kieron’s speech), happy (lovely to see all the parents support each other
* Kieron Rose’s speech – heart warming
* Great to hear/see young people having a voice and being able to be involved in developing services/resources
* Blown away by children who presented
* The enlightening and heartfelt presentation by Kieron Rose. Very emotive and some very good learning. This needs to be rolled out in all schools to raise awareness and reduce the misunderstandings around Autism
* Sense of togetherness, importance of peer support
* Hope – services are improving, awareness and acceptance is improving
* Despair – statistics for Autism suicide rates
* Whole ring of emotions in relation to Kieron Rose’s presentation
* The talk from Kieron Rose, very moving
* Meeting people
* Autism advocate struck a cord wit my personal situation, he should go into school to speak with teachers/parents and other community services to raise awareness
* Kieran Rose was amazing, had me in tears
* Very emotional, angry and upset
* Upset, hurt by Kieron Rose speech
* Sharing with other parents
* The speaker Kieron Rose gave a big insight into Autism as a person growing up with Autism. The extreme group were amazing it really opened my eyes
* Heartfelt and emotional speech from Kieron Rose – Autism Advocate
* Very emotional speech from Kieron – anger
* Very emotional at Kieron’s talk today. He is an inspirational man and could be a vital source of educating the young people of today to make the world a better place for future people with ASD
* Emotional experiences hearing the young people speak
* Sad upset
* Emotionally upset during Kieron Rose’s speech. He should have explained that it was going to be in depth and taking parents int consideration
* Fantastic all round, but Kieron Rose upset
* Loved every minute
* The autistic advocate was brilliant to listen to
* Careers who contribute to a programme based on their experiences, so others don’t suffer
* Personal experiences from Kieron Rose, it was very powerful and thought provoking
* The talk regarding ‘Masking’ really hit home and made me think about my girls Autism. MCT staff were lovely and supportive when I left the room a little upset, thank you
* Enjoyed listening to others view point
* Positivity that more is being done to help raise awareness within schools and communities
* High impact on effects and understanding of people both professionals and parents in dealing with the condition, the presentation by Kieron Rose. As a retired governor some understanding this presentation was heartfelt
* Insight into a personal day and life of someone with Autism
* Sadness, joy, hope that things will get better for our children and young people through out their lives
* Parents/carers are feeling very disheartened with their education service
* That some group really help people
* Emotional during Kieron Rose presentation, disappointment regarding lack of funding over all departments
* Kieron Roses talk – deeply moving
* Listening to actual experiences – influences of speakers
* Hot air con needed, some info but more needed on EHCP
* More understanding on Autism
* Extreme group – great job
* Loved to hear from the young people
* Gained a much better understanding of Autism and masking excellent speaker
* Also got upset
* That I can look at things more objectively now
* Very emotional response to Kieron about his experiences of life with Autism, very thought provoking
* OMG – Kieron Rose has really opened my eyes in such a positive way – fabulous. More information to schools and LA is needed to support children/young people with ASC/D from people with Autism
* Kieron Rose – fantastic so true everything he had said needs to be at the next conference and recording given to every school
* Loved Kieron Rose’s talk
* Positive progress in supported employment

***Something I will take away from today***

* More sensory strategies
* New information
* Communication – we are still not getting it right – that is all services/agencies
* Professionals don’t have a clue about Autism – confirmed at last
* Information about Autism speaker was fantastic and should be able to go into talk to school staff
* A better understanding of how difficult my child’s life is with ASD daily and a re-focus on trying so hard to understand how best to support her
* Networking, new contacts and opportunities for m and my child
* Lots of information
* New contacts and groups/services to access
* Durham County Carers pen
* Kieron Rose
* All the organisations working in the same field
* Organisations which I was not aware of with the county
* The information I need to gain more services and where to access them
* Increased knowledge of support available (in theory)
* Lots of information to shape with school and family’s
* Stay positive, let your voice be heard
* Greater understanding of current resources available to parents and most importantly the person who has the condition
* Menimter.com
* Information
* Supportive strategies and awareness of autistic burnout which will be very helpful in educating schools to deal with/support my children
* Positive strategies to are for strimming and masking. Register with Durham carers
* Useful stands had help reference ‘oral health’ for daughter who struggles with teeth brushing – free samples of toothpaste to try
* Gift masking
* New information
* No money but tons of commitment
* Lots of information
* Schools are failing (I knew that) but the effects can be catastrophic
* Extreme group – will try and contribute something. Will follow Kieron Rose and his excellent work?
* Lots of services that I didn’t know about. Young people’s input into masking, biig discussions by County Hall or professionals have more understanding
* Extensive work being done to continue the journey to support children and young people with SEND
* Lots of new contacts and information
* The understanding of Autism. The support for 16-year old’s learning school and help towards employment, thank you
* A bag full of flyers
* SEND children do not need curing, just support to reach full potential
* Lack of community support
* More knowledge
* I need to research more in relation to services and funding that may be available to me and my family
* Everyone is in the same position on the sinking ship all fighting for the last life raft
* The extensive work that is ongoing to influence changes and policies to make life better for children, young people and their families with SEND
* Knowledge about masking, behaviour when a child has Autism
* The impact of masking on a child’s mental health
* Think about what a ‘pack’ would look like for young people diagnosed with Autism
* Swoosh ball is wonderful
* Information on what services I can contact
* Extreme group was fantastic
* Information on various organisations

***Something that was not so good about today***

* Background noise, tea/coffee/dinner
* Food – disgusting
* Food – disappointing
* Early years SEND – only because my child is way beyond this stage
* Last speakers’ assumption that all people have/use smart phones
* Distress caused by the Autism Advocate speech, should have been warned about content
* Professionals invited and then leave after their slot when they are parents/carers who couldn’t get a place
* Autistic Advocate, Durham County Council presentations – too vague and gimmickier
* Data, local authority structured information
* All good
* Cost of venue, refreshments. More podium and microphone to allow outer tables to see screen. Focus on ASD only – other conditions not mentioned
* Mentimeter at the end
* the WIFI for mentimeter at the end
* Found all leaflets helpful
* Not enough interaction
* Internet presentation by Laura Coulthard, old paper system would have been more appropriate and useable as no constancy using devices which resulted in some frustration on delegates trying to access the system and unable to do so through technique issues
* I thought although the Autism Advocate as very good the story of suicide attempt was very distressing
* Nothing
* Food was not so good today
* Nothing – it was all fab
* The LA and their wish list – start to get the basics right for our kids
* The online survey – too slow
* Although the Kieron Rose was good it was too much and too in depth
* Too full from having eyes bigger that belly – nothing bad
* The Autistic Advocate was to graphic and in-depth. There were young people present, vulnerable parents experiencing things he described, and it just wasn’t appropriate for this type of event
* Everything was useful
* Autism Advocate was a little rough going, with just recently receiving my little boys’ diagnosis, as a parent I felt that should be aimed more at professionals
* The Autistic Advocate in depth account to his overdose in front of children it was inappropriate
* Kieron’s speech wasn’t very appropriate when young people were in the building
* Felt very ‘professional’ more like networking than for parents
* I thought in-depth mention of suicide in front of children and adults touched by it. Too harsh. Plus mentioning of embarrassing traits inform of vulnerable children. I also think more information for more the profounder disabled should be included, which is not
* Nothing – well done everyone
* Bit to close to home on the Autism advocacy
* Everything was good, the day was great for parents and professionals
* Congratulations to MCT for yet another fantastic and very informative conference. Well done to the young people who presented today
* Everything good speakers, venue and food
* Not having handouts for all speakers
* To warm in room
* All great, well done
* The complete and utter guff “professionals” DCC spout and do nothing to change circumstances for parents and children
* Facts and figures
* Not as good as the one I attended in November