

West Sussex Intensive Planning Team

In Control residential
Oct 2017

Where this started

- Background ...West Sussex were part of the DfE funded Me My Family My Home project where 6 Local Authorities and their partners focused on creating young people with complex needs and complicated home lives
 - those receiving high cost and fully funded support from health
 - young children where there was an understanding that if things weren't tackled early on that everyone was concerned about the longer term
 - and children and young people placed away from home due to child protection concerns

<http://www.in-control.org.uk/what-we-do/community-of-change/children-and-young-people/our-work/me,-my-family,-my-home,-my-friends,-and-my-life.aspx>

Where this started

- A list of children and young people I had where things had got stuck - some parents and other colleagues contacted me asking for help
- 2 workshops Tricia facilitated that showed (amongst other things!) that people were definitely not joining up across Education, Health and Social Care
- A growing sense that we had to try something different
- And 2 particular situations.....

Noah aged 5

- Our SEN Assessment team emailed to ask if I could help with a 5 year old whilst also telling me it was almost certainly too late to prevent an independent special school placement
- Noah had reached the end of the road with his local mainstream primary school where he'd displayed a range of challenging behaviours and the school had done everything they could.
- Noah was on the waiting list for an autism spectrum condition assessment and the family had been assessed by social care. Mum had been on a parenting course, some short term support was provided and the case was being closed

Tyler aged 12

- Discussed at our Complex Case Panel with a recommendation for a 38 week joint-funded residential school placement as the local independent special school could no longer meet his needs
- Tyler has autism spectrum condition (high functioning) and apparently can't manage transitions at all, so a 38 week placement with him staying there for the whole of the first term would sort this
- CAMHS fully supporting the recommendation and SEN Team had already carried out a placement search identifying 2 possibilities. Parents had booked visits

Initial idea....

- SWOT Team - parachutes, fast pace, quick actions!
- highly skilled managers from education, health and social care working in one team
- Work alongside existing practitioners so we support and change culture too
- Tricia could help!
- Probably nothing to lose and it might just work

....worked up into the Intensive Planning Team

- Positive, whole family, person-centred outcomes for children and young people and their families
- Efficiencies and financial savings - actual and cost avoidance- for West Sussex County Council and CCGs
- Stopping the current trajectory of continued placements of children and young people out of county and changing the culture that sits behind this; taking a preventative approach
- A life-long approach across the project that takes ‘the long view’ when planning with families
- Families with SEND children and young people to tell us their life experience has improved and is positive.
- Long term sustainable change in practice and outcomes for children and families

Who

- SEND children and young people who are not in school much or at all and where the professionals have got stuck. The lack of education is the key concern but not the only issue
- On SEN Support or have an EHCP
- Also likely that their health and social care needs are not met
- Risk of imminent or longer term family or placement breakdown
- out of county placements are being considered

Impact of current system...

On families:

- Poor outcomes for children and young people
- severing local links and fracturing of family relationships
- longer term consequences of this for children and young people into adulthood

For the education, health and social care systems:

- high costs of placements
- difficulty in planning particularly at points of transition
- Long-term care and support costs

What we are doing

- Brought together skilled managers and practitioners across education, health and social care
- 30 children and young people on the list - ages from 5-22
- Most but not all have high functioning autism spectrum condition and meet Transforming Care criteria
- Working with around 10 of the children and young people and their families intensively
- Developing educational packages with families that are legal, focused on outcomes and might mean a child is on roll of a local school but doesn't actually go there
- Wrapping around short breaks, personal budgets, Wikis

Noah

- Ignored advice from SEN team that it was too late, contacted mum who agreed to work with us
- Approached another local mainstream school and asked ‘what would it take’
- Supported mum over the summer holidays with a Short Breaks provider who also works with children who aren’t in school
- Fishing
- Bringing together a team to address the dual label of autism spectrum condition and attachment so we offer a coordinated approach across education, health and social care

Tyler

- Met with parents the day before they were due to visit the 2 out of county placements and asked them to try something different
- Parents cancelled visits and agreed to trust us
- Supported the social worker to put together a great personal budget
- DIY SOS style makeover for house and garden
- Fish and Alpacas
- Now on roll of a new provider that offers a bespoke timetable and flexible approach
- Mum says she now feels like Tyler's mum again for the first time in years

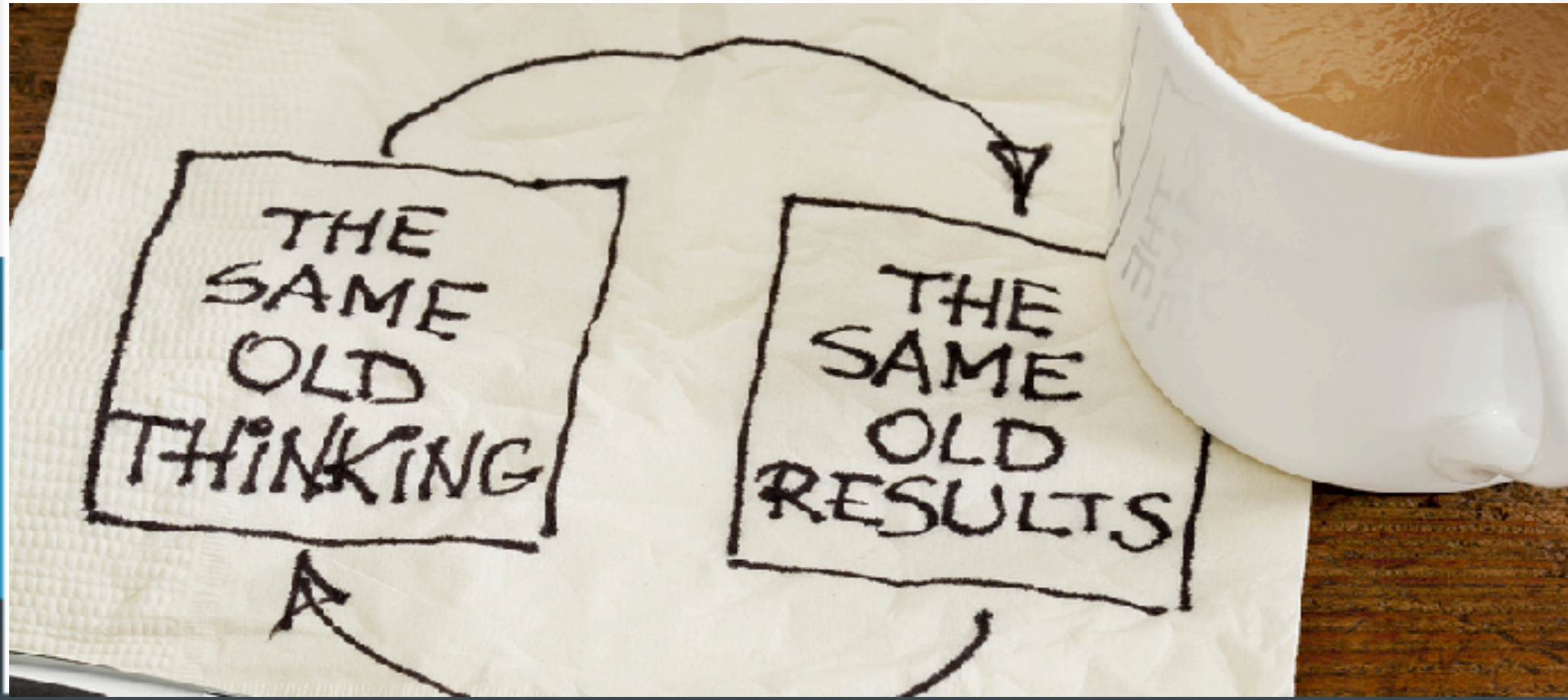
How will we know the impact?

- Reduction in use of out of county placements
- Reduction in family breakdown
- Financial savings
- Evidence of life long plans being in place
- Feedback from children and young people and families is positive about their life experience

How will we measure this?

- Use of data on placements and costs
- Family feedback via interview
- Staff feedback via interview/survey
- Structured reflection on learning from individual cases
- Numbers of long term plans recorded

This requires us to do things differently!



Outcomes matter!

