

Children Young People & Skills Committee – Council Response to the Open Letter from RightPro

In June 2018 RightPro posted an open letter to various people at the City Council, Brighton & Hove CCG and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT): 'Reporting of Multi-agency failures in Brighton & Hove relating to autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.'

Following further clarifications after receiving this letter we are aware that RightPro is a registered charity with external trustees as well as being members of MPA (McKeown Psychological Associates), which is a locally based limited company. The Chair of the Trustees for RightPro is also Managing Director and Clinical Psychologist for MPA: Dr Joshua Carritt-Baker. He provides therapy, assessments, expert witness, teaching, and training and supervision services. This led to some concerns about a potential conflict of interest.

Following receipt of the letter and correspondence with Dr Carritt-Baker there were two meetings with him, chaired by Fiona England, Chair of PaCC. These were in September and November 2018. These sought to better understand the concerns raised and to discuss differences in clinical views by professionals.

The tenor of Rightpro's open letter was critical of local practice. The types of issues raised would generally be addressed through professional regulation. RightPro is not a regulatory body, so it has no power to say that they have 'started issuing notices of professional practice and general agency failures in relation to children with developmental disorders in Brighton & Hove.'

If Dr Carritt-Baker, as Chair of Trustees for RightPro or Managing Director or Clinical Psychologist for MPA has a complaint:

- about an individual practitioner, then the employing organisation or other relevant regulatory bodies have a procedure that can be followed;
- about our local health and adult social care services, then the provider or Care Quality Commission (CQC) have a procedure that can be followed;
- about our local education and children's social care services, then the organisation or Ofsted have a procedure that can be followed.

The Council and the CCG commission provision to meet educational, health and care needs informed by assessments of needs. The intention is that children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions have the same opportunities as all children: to participate in our communities, progress and achieve through education, skills and employment so they are able to lead happy and fulfilled lives.

Following receipt of the open letter from RightPro and through the recent meetings, the Council, CCG and SPFT have been open to looking at organisational issues.

Through these discussions some complex issues and key challenges have been highlighted which require multi-faceted collaboration.

At present a response to the key issues raised in the open letter from RightPro is being agreed between the Council, CCG, SCFT and SPFT. This will be shared in an open letter of response.