

Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Joint Working



London Borough of Hounslow

A scrutiny review into Speech and Language Commissioning by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel has evolved into an area wide commissioning pathfinder scheme of the same name proving that good scrutiny can make waves. By bringing together the local authority, the PCT, the new NHS provider, schools and academics with parents and young people with special education needs (SEN) scrutiny has been able to start a movement within the local area that has attracted substantial funds and delivered tangible benefits for young people with SEN and their parents/carers.

Impact

- The project resulting from this scrutiny review has attracted almost £60k of additional funding from different grants to augment the £90k that it received as a pathfinder, securing future momentum for the project.
- A number of issues that parents/carers of children with SEN were grappling with have been brought under the same umbrella and parents are now engaged with scrutiny and accountability as part of the commissioning process.
- Scrutiny has commissioned 5 films which are already attracting interest and will help draw attention to the project.

Why shortlisted

- This piece of work shows that scrutiny is capable of providing redress to citizens for their concerns and can lead to changes in the way services are delivered and decisions made.
- This review originated from a single submission by a parent who was dissatisfied with services for her child.
- Realising the weight of the issues and demand amongst parents for involvement, the review brought parents and service providers together to determine how services for those with SEN needed to be reorganised.
- A remarkable pathfinder project that has helped to raise the profile of the issue as well as cement the reputation of scrutiny.

“ The issue of speech and language therapy provision in Hounslow is one that parents of disabled children have been struggling with for many years, until the involvement of Scrutiny. ”

Michele Rooney, Parent in Hounslow SEN support group - Parents in Touch

“ The involvement of Scrutiny has added a sense of urgency and has raised the project’s profile to a much higher level than would have been possible otherwise. ”

Nancy Goodchild, Head of Primary Care and Mainstream Speech & Language Therapy, Hounslow