

South East Sector-led Improvement Partnership

South East Children Missing Education Group

Notes

4th March 2021.

Attending: Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Debbie Bell (Oxfordshire), Paul Manning (Kent), Katy Daly (Bracknell), Gill Dunlop (Reading), Melissa Perry (Wokingham), Dave Harvey (Hants), Beth Armstrong (E Sussex), Linda Curtis (W Berks), Rosie Gossage and Clare Raffaelli (RBWM), Bryn Roberts (Southampton), Lynn Sims & Christine Clarke (Medway), Andrew Parker (W Sussex), Farah Malik (Slough), Mark Keiller (Surrey), Chris Owen (SESLIP).

Apologies: Gavin Thomas (B&H), James Fowler (Bucks).

	Item	Actions
1.	Welcome & introductions	
2.	<p>Notes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes agreed. • Karl Dixon-Myers had to postpone his presentation to today's meeting due to going on paternity leave. We have rescheduled his session for 9th June. • Thanks to Debbie for sharing the slides about attendance for Children's Services colleagues. • Request from In-year Fair Access group to complete their short survey. • The DfE have sent an email confirming the change in language for school exclusions to apply from September. 	All
3.	<p>Preparation for full re-opening of schools from 8th March</p> <p>a. <u>Attendance of vulnerable CYP, especially in secondary schools</u></p> <p>Most are finding attendance by secondary-age vulnerable pupils is the main pressure at the moment.</p> <p>Whilst some headteachers are needing to be reminded that a phased return for individuals amounts to a reduced timetable and therefore local procedures should be followed.</p> <p>Others are providing schools with a guide of questions to ask parents who are claiming their child is clinically extremely vulnerable. Some families are likely to need a firm steer to return their children to school.</p> <p>Debbie shared activities developed with LA colleagues to support attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with the early help team to visit targeted families through March. Focus: encouragement to re-establish the 'healthy routines' around school attendance. 	

	Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a shared focus on aiming for 100% attendance, rather than the frequent view that 90% school attendance is good enough for a child with a TAF or CIN or CLA. • Communication from DCS to welcome parents returning their children to school and, separately, to LSCB partners to maintain a shared focus on promoting school attendance; recognising it is a protective factor. <p>b. <u>Enforcement action and overseas stays.</u></p> <p>Debate over advice from DfE lawyers that, if a child is abroad and the family has not informed of a return date, they should not be unilaterally removed from a school roll. Many see this as impractical, especially when there is pressure on school places and a child is away for many months. Concerns were expressed about the extended safeguarding responsibilities this left the school with.</p> <p>For several LAs, enforcement action will restart after Easter. The focus will remain on support and persuasion initially.</p> <p>c. <u>Exclusion pressures, including from face mask wearing</u></p> <p>An expectation that exclusions might go up, especially where secondaries have some students refusing to use a facemask. The DfE, though, recommend schools expect them to be worn, rather than requiring a face mask. The guidance will be reviewed and is likely to change after Easter.</p> <p>d. <u>EHE, now and future effects</u></p> <p>Most expect EHE numbers to increase significantly once more; some LAs have already been receiving enquiries from families.</p> <p>Mike and Neil shared further details about the possible judicial review faced by Portsmouth concerning the evidence the LA expect to demonstrate suitable education and that a written report is unlikely to be sufficient.</p>	
4.	<p>Development projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Presenting work</u> <u>April 22nd</u>: In-year FAP – will include recommended approaches for LAs, plus proposals for discussion and possible escalation to the AD Education Network. <u>June 9th</u>: EHE and Flexi-school. Medical needs to be confirmed. • <u>Proposals for 2021:</u> These have been shared with the AD Education Network and the SESLIP Steering Group, should there be funds available for 2021-22. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support the operation of the CME Group, its document library and development of positions and recommendations for SESLIP. – Disseminate the materials and evidence from the four collaborative projects. – Compile, collate and discussion of education data dashboard across the South-east. 	

	Item	Actions
	<p>Further collaborative projects to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ address challenges and best practice for groups of concern due to the pandemic: prolonged absence by priority vulnerable groups e.g. at risk of CSE and CCE, minority ethnic groups such as GRT children; and ○ strategies to impact on the use of reduced timetables by schools; also link to blended learning: what is good practice for pupils who might be being moved towards alternative provision; what are minimum standards? ○ an audit overview of education provision and arrangements for pupils with medical needs, most of whom have SEMH needs. Also, to build overview of practice about EOTAS provision where children do not hit thresholds for medical needs. <p>This is not an exhaustive list and there are no guarantees that funding will be made available. MS asked that Members give this their consideration and send any further thoughts to CO. This will be firmed up at the next meeting.</p>	<p>All / CO</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>SESIP CME / EHE data snapshot and dashboard</p> <p>CO to recirculate draft from autumn 2020. Daryl Perilli from Brighton & Hove (Daryl.Perilli@brighton-hove.gov.uk) leads on compiling the dashboard. CO will put him in touch with Linda to help with W Berkshire's data. Agree that we should aim for the next data request to cover summer term 2021 (end of Sept?).</p> <p>Shared query about post-exam attendance; is the end of the school year 18th June? Schools are seeking clarification.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>22nd April 2021, 10am – midday (virtual meeting)</p> <p>9th June 2021, 2pm – 4pm (virtual meeting)</p>	<p>All</p>