

AGENDA

AD EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING

17th September 2021, 10.00am – midday



Present: Carol Cammiss (Wokingham), Marie Denny (Milton Keynes), Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth), Kim James (Oxfordshire), Ian Pearson (W Berkshire), Jane Winterbone (Surrey), Christine McInnes (Kent), Jessica Stubbings (E Sussex), Cheryl Eyre (Bracknell),
 Apologies: Lucy Butler (W Sussex), Michelle Stanley (Kent), Hayley Good (Oxfordshire), Simon James (Bucks), Liz Mills (Surrey), Brian Pope (Hants), Kate Reynolds (Reading), Sal Thirlway (Wokingham).

ITEM	Actions
<p><u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>The notes from the meeting on 18th June were agreed as accurate.</p> <p>Hampshire Trans-toolkit judicial review – update at next meeting</p> <p>Local initiatives to support schools to address sexual harassment / abuse: none received so far. JW and IP to send through examples of presentations and a programme of activities. CO will circulate with weekly updates; others examples are requested.</p> <p>Feedback from SE DCSs meeting: DCSs proposed they take some soundings with MAT CEOs. LB will update about ideas to follow up “Pushing At an Open Door” in Nov. Reports and draft EHE policy were well received. DCSs were in support of increased powers for LAs to direct academies to accept pupils but recognised that this is not the policy directly of the DfE presently.</p>	<p>BP</p> <p>JW / IP ALL</p> <p>LB</p>
<p>1. Local Strategic Education Systems Framework</p> <p>CO summarised edits to the Framework, in response to comments received, and highlights from the evidence shared by 6 LAs. JW emailed in a summary for Surrey and CO located Wokingham’s that he had overlooked. Requested that other LAs complete and send to CO, aim for at least 11 or 12 to inform a digest for DCSs. Please send in by the end of Sept.</p> <p>MS provided an update about Portsmouth’s involvement with the DfE commissioned research about the strategic role of the LA being carried out by ISOS. Colleagues requested the list of the 10 LAs involved with the in-depth research and the research brief. Information was shared about a further roundtable for any interested LAs that the DfE are coordinating on 28th Sept from 1.30pm. CO will include details in this week’s update. Any able to attend are asked to summarise key points and send them to CO after the meeting to update the Network.</p> <p>Discussion about other relevant reviews that are underway (e.g. around children’s social care) and the challenges of partnership working with RSC offices. At the same time as the DfE are looking to reduce the role of LAs in education, the RSCs seem to be in contact more frequently.</p> <p>The group would like to invite RSCs to next meeting. Potentially discussions could include implications of the new Ofsted EIF and concerns for some long-standing outstanding schools.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> Any of the following LAs to send their summaries to CO by 30th September if possible: B&H, Bucks, Medway, Oxfordshire, Reading, Southampton, W Berkshire, Windsor & Maidenhead. CO will summarise ready to share with DCSs by end of Oct.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>MS</p> <p>CO</p> <p>CO / CC</p> <p>CK, KJ, MS, SJ, CF, KR, IP, CH.</p>

ITEM	Actions
<p>Invite the two RSCs covering the South-east to meet the Network, preferably at the Nov meeting.</p>	<p>CO / CC / LB.</p>
<p>2. Start of the autumn term and learning recovery</p> <p>In many ways the autumn term has begun well.</p> <p>The following challenges were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower attendance than in the summer term; concern expressed about the drop in attendance among vulnerable learners. This is a focus for action in LAs. • Level of positive tests among pupils is quite high and in early years settings. One or two LAs have found inconsistencies in advice for schools from DfE and PHE, including not adhering national guidance. Colleagues highlighted the continued importance of the senior taskforce meetings to iron-out difficulties. • Level of positive tests in school staff were an issue in some LAs, leaving one or two schools already struggling to open fully. • Covid-19 vaccinations seen as something to get on with. Some practical issues (persuading a school to not shut for the whole day to deliver vaccinations). Oxfordshire has kept Ofsted informed about vaccination dates in schools so this is accounted for in their dates for inspection visits. • Staff recruitment is an emerging concern in early years and some support roles such as passenger assistants on SEND transport. Disruption is looming. 	
<p>3. Proposals for joint session with SEND Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement that a joint meeting with the SEND Network would be timely. Preferably in place of the existing January 2022 date, but instead of if another date had to be used. Focus should be on sharing strategies and challenges across the South-east, to avoid being waylaid by national changes. However, a SEND Green Paper and updated Ofsted / CQC inspection framework would be valuable to give time to, if these are available. • Elements to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ofsted / CQC developments / new framework / SEND Green paper. ○ High needs funding: the pressures and sufficiency planning, including the challenges of mapping future need and opening new schools, recovery plans for ESFA. Surrey has an extensive programme of special school expansion underway and is pro-actively quality assuring non-maintained and independent schools. ○ Post-16 pathways and outcomes at age 19 and beyond. Agreed this is a looming area of pressure and the nature of a good offer is challenging. ○ Co-working with parents and carers, including communication with and managing expectations. W Berks mentioned their use of a parents' survey as a good source of feedback and it is used to then discuss topics with certain schools. ○ Strategies for those at SEN support: Oxfordshire is piloting a development programme with Whole Education, Bracknell has a focus on 'quality first' teaching and has been expanding resource bases in schools; Wokingham mentioned their CPD for SENCOs. <p><u>Action:</u> CO to summarise discussions and to meet with the SEND Network to work towards fixing a date and agenda. Update the group in November (or earlier). He will then follow-up with Network members about those willing to share practice.</p>	<p>CO</p>

ITEM	Actions
<p>4. Children Missing Education Group</p> <p>Update provided about the judicial review being defended by Portsmouth CC and the recent FOIs about EHE.</p> <p>Introduced the ‘Building Back Better’ fund bid (£15k for programme of targeted collaborations on EHE), which had had to be submitted in a matter of weeks after the summer meeting. DfE expected to respond to SESLIP early in October. The CME group chairs have a meeting scheduled with the DfE in mid-October.</p>	
<p>5. AOB / future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for additional meeting to discuss LA arrangements to support Afghan refugees: 24th September 8am. • Resilience and financial sustainability of some mainstream schools, especially smaller primaries and those with falling rolls, is a live issue. Surrey is doing some work and will share a survey they have used to build the local picture. • 12th November: Claire Burton and Sara Brattan from the two RSC offices will attend the first half of this meeting. Other topics: B&H strategy for disadvantaged children? Or changes to role of virtual headteacher? 	<p>CO</p> <p>JW</p>