

**S.E.19 SEND Regional Network**

**Preparing for Adulthood Group: LA and Provider Forum**

**Wednesday 3rd November 2021**

**13.30 – 15.30**

**Notes of meeting**

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| **Organisation** | **Attendees** |
| Activate Learning | Vronwyn Hutch |
| BCA | Emma de Goede |
| BCA | Nadia Khan |
| Bracknell Forest LA | Warren Manning |
| Chichester College Group | Eileen Darby (Co-Chair) |
| East Sussex LA | Lucy Butler  |
| EKC Group of FE Colleges | Jo Campbell |
| Farnborough College | Mary Campbell |
| Guildford and Merrist Wood College / Activate Learning  | Christina Hart |
| Hampshire LA | Toni-Marie Leaf |
| Hampshire LA | Deborah Copeland |
| Hampshire LA | Cathy Smith |
| Havant & South Downs College | Debbie Collinson-Bolles |
| Kent LA | Paula Watson |
| North Kent College | Karen Richardson |
| Portsmouth LA | Sharon Willis |
| Reading LA - Brighter Futures for Children | Adeana Robinson |
| RBW&M LA - Achieving for Children | Joanna Safa |
| Sheiling College | Mike Gamble  |
| Slough LA | Liandra Defonska |
| St. John's College | Karen Grist |
| St Piers School & College, Surrey | Richard Gargon |
| Surrey LA | Julia Laird |
| Surrey LA | Andrew Stowell |
| West Sussex LA | Paul Morrison (Co-Chair) |
| **National/Regional Reps** |  |
| Association of Colleges (AoC) | Gemma Baker |
| AoC | David Holloway |
| DfE SEND Advisor, S.E. Region Lead | Liz Flaherty  |
| National Association of Specialist Colleges (Natspec) | Ruth Perry |
| NDTi PfA and SEND Leadership programme lead | Julie Pointer |
| S.E.19 SEND Network Co-ordinator | Tracey Maytas |
| Mott MacDonald SE Regional Support Officer  | Julie Huggins |

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Co-Chairs Eileen Darby and Paul Morrison commenced the Forum with a welcome to all in attendance.

**2. Actions / Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

Easy-read version of FE Leaflet; NDTi could not offer to support, will revisit at a later point. Ruth Perry to pick up with Julie Pointer at later point.

Careers Enterprise powerpoint has been distributed to attendees.

Henni Still (Careers Enterprise) ICAN webinar – action for TM to follow up with Henni.

David Holloway – received contact for High Needs Provision

LDEP contact from Julie P; TM to follow up and pass to Simon Charleton

**3. SEND Review – AoC and Natspec activity**

Ruth Perry (Natspec) - David Holloway

1. Transitions - Explore smooth transitions in, looking for system which all parties could sign up to, the young person had security and all knew what they were doing. Improved consistent transition out, agreed way of agencies to work together and get health, social care, housing and employment support involved. Natspec have recently inputted to DWP consultation regarding employment support.
2. Parity for colleges with schools for SEND Support.
3. Decline in specialist expertise, SALT, Physio, Ed Psychs, sensory empowerment, across most regions. Looking for a model where specialist colleges share expertise in bespoke hub model outside their regions, an outreach approach. General and FE specialist colleges working on this.
4. Fairer deal for capital funding. Following the spending review announcement there is an increase in capital funding, same problems though where funding is used mainly in schools sector and need a fair deal for colleges, also aware early years is also saying this.
5. Strategic and regional planning – transitions. 3 year planning, asking DfE to foster these kinds of plans where LAs and colleges can work together. Interested in better future planning, looking at the cohorts coming through system can better anticipate need rather than knee jerk opening of new SPI’s in response to cohorts finding difficult to place. Aware these children will have been in the system since they were 4, need to improve data collection and collaboration between providers and grow some of the current provision without opening lots of new settings.

JP stated some LAs do this already and good practice is happening.

1. HNF and Commissioning and better in year responsiveness to place funding, consideration for ring fenced pot for high needs funding, mismatch with number of those with EHCP’s, not 100% match, but needs to be closer than it currently is and this match is happening in schools.

This is coming from FE sector and is a set of asks, looking to strengthen FE voice. Natspec have met with new SEND Review team, Charlie Lang is now leading the review and are meeting him again tomorrow.

JP – LGA are also echoing the above.

RP – Data is really telling, RP asked what % of children with EHCP’s nationally are in mainstream sector and % in special school? Also asked % between FE colleges and mainstream colleges?

Answer – 50:50 split in schools between mainstream and specialist, for FE it is 90% in mainstream and 10% in FE specialist. Demonstrates FE have been providing mainstream provision, but DfE need to recognise the system is under strain and if not supported soon will crack.

**4. Discussion – Links to DfE SEND Improvement & PfA / Post-16 Divisions**

Liz Flaherty updated. No date for the SEND Review, the pandemic has resulted in the scope being revisited, there will be a public consultation on the final recommendations. DH stated he felt the DfE review team are listening.

New Ofsted framework, not seen detail, pilots going on in 3 areas, Lincolnshire, Suffolk and Blackburn with Darwen, none in SW or SE.

LF explained the roles of SEND Advisers and the Central Send Improvement & Operations Unit (SIOU) of DfE. SIOU main focus is leading on DfE issues highlighted in inspections and revisits, working closely with SEND Advisers. SEND Advisers review progress with WSOA’s and accelerated progress plans, the SEND Adviser provides the specialist SEND advice to local areas. SIOU will provide knowledge and information on up to date policy on SEND and sharing of knowledge and delivery support offer across local areas, FSE and regional schools commissioners to develop intelligence on local areas. They will respond to letters from parents and brief ministers on issues as they arise in local areas.

LF - SEND Adviser is not part of SIOU, is recruited by DfE to have the SEND knowledge and experience, they will keep in touch with SEND leads and in SE19 will have an overview of the statutory requirements, EHCP needs assessment and annual reviews. SIOU and SEND Advisers try to work together rather than do the same work.

TM – Informed the group she could get someone from the SIOU team to attend this meeting but LF is the main contact. LF happy to attend and asked the group to email if they had any queries and if she does not know she will find an answer.

RP - Coming to a natural end of period of areas first inspection. LF said a couple of areas not inspected yet in SE, but no official start date for the new framework.

**5.Draft Terms of Reference – circulated with agenda**

Frequency - All agreed 3 times year for meeting

Purpose – partnership between schools and colleges and collaborative working need to be added? **Action:** TM, PM and ED to review.

Membership – have attendance from all FE colleges, all agreed would be impractical if met in person, need further discussion. Gemma B would value representation from independent colleges as issues are not always different, others agreed. **Action:** TM, PM and ED to review.

Principles of meeting – agreed

Reporting - Agreed

**6**. **Describing FE for learners with SEND and their families; SE19 leaflet**

Ruth Perry and Tracey Maytas updated they have appointed a designer to create a version of the PDF vanilla version. The PDF is downloadable on the website <https://www.seslip.co.uk/download-file/1157>. Need some photographs of learners, need group photo’s doing FE things, racial mix and from general FE colleges.

**Action:** Providers to send suitable photos directly to RP and ensure have students permissions.

**7.Task and Finish Groups – updates, key learning and next steps**.

**Group A –** Ruth Perry updated that the group, Defining Continuing Progress morphed slightly into identifying when usually appropriate and not appropriate to cease or maintain a plan at age of 19. Bought together range of parties, who all shared a real passion for reaching a position that would be fair to learners. Result is attached draft document and group would like feedback on content and how they would like to use it. Document contains a Section A – which is a set of statements of general feeling if things were working then would not get a position of dispute in first place. Section B circumstances plans should usually be maintained, this document is to support decision making only. Section C advice when generally agreed a plan should be ceased, gathered some illustrative examples. Happy to make changes to these if the group recommends, caveat, the document and advice is pinned to current Code of Practice and legislation, if changes would need to be reviewed.

RG - Find the document interesting and useful and offers all of us, LAs, providers, young people and families, clearer guidance on collaborative working.

TM –All to send comments to RP after meeting.

RG – really useful guidance for LA’s, providers, young people and families, clear guide to when goes right. All parties need to sign up to these as a consistent approach.

TM – asked if group could adopt this and then circulate document and ask them to sign to it, need to do through LA SEND Leads and Colleges separately. Get names on, would take some time to do. RP will do a paragraph as guidance.

Jo Campbell –would want to share within the provider organisations and the managers work with in the Kent area offices, commitment to share within the relevant wider organisations is really important.

RG – agreed with JC, need to share with people within LAs who are leading on SEND strategy or have some position where they could share it with their colleagues at a higher level.

RP – happy to extend deadline on feedback, end of November.

**Action** - LAs reps and College reps to have conversations with managers about circulation of document amongst colleagues.

**Group B –** Paul Morrison updated that the group is undertaking two actions.

1. Formulate systems map of the ideal process for joint working to enable transitions out of education and into future adult life.
2. Identify timeline and key points for joint working to provide a graduated transition from education to social care. The new Designated Social Care Officer for West Sussex is assisting the group with this.

Thanked all those who participated, very wide ranging discussion with various backgrounds, Helen Hodgson, NDTi, Social Care background, bought some expertise, Natalie McNeal also and new Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO).

Group acknowledged that adult social care is a key player in the process, group looked at various flow charts and expectations of young people which can escalate processes. Group mentioned the disparity between those HNF and those not in SEN support and pressures within the college system. Audits were important and LAs could learn from this process and discussion and bring in the right people at the right time and assist with transitions. Big challenge was independent living and each council has a different way of funding and no consistency across the region / country. Described a battle what is right for YP and not what parents think, especially when looking at the mental health capacity act. Also what happens when YP returns from residential settings, developing a platform in Sussex where YP not lose their skills from this training but look to ensure they keep the skills set going and embed process of supported living.

**Actions:**- Have some draft documents and have a draft timeline. 2 major problems, right outcomes in planning and right time and place, and right provision needs to be cited. The group would like a third meeting and continue with work and report back at the next regional meeting. Like to hear from everyone in meeting.

JP – linking up with NHS National Transition team, might be worth linking up with them, JP to provide contact.

MC – Have a transition document for parents, some specific sign posting for people.

**Group C –** Gemma Baker (Association of Colleges) updated that the group had their third meeting on 22nd June, looking at 3 actions:-

1. Good examples of PfA outcomes in EHCP’s, struggling to find these and contacted all the colleges. Eileen sent some over the summer, GB to review these.
2. Toolkit for people to write good outcomes for EHCPS. Looking to amend the toolkit, need some school involvement. Julie P emailed 1 page summary of some work being done in London and Hertfordshire.
3. PfA outcomes embedded in EHCP’s, moving from school to college. Need to do a bit more follow on work with this, looking at some work done in Bath and NE Somerset. They are working on how to capture aspirations in the transition plan and hold regular termly meetings between schools and colleges and have developed a comprehensive tracker to know all the YP coming through. They hold meetings twice a year with YP.

**Actions:** Group C looking to make links with schools and meet with them, and if any have links or want to get involved let GB know. GB to send email to group, looking to arrange a meeting of Group C before Christmas?

**8. AOB**

AoC National SEND Conference, Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th December, online conference.

Mixture of sessions to all and also break out sessions, <https://www.aoc-services.co.uk/events_and_training/aoc-send-conference-2021/>

1. **DONM**

Spring Term – Wednesday 9th February, 13.30 – 15.30

Summer Term – Wednesday 18th May, 13.30 – 15.30

1. **Actions**

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| **Action** | **Owner** |
| Henrietta ICAN webinar  | TM to follow up with Henrietta |
| LDEP contact from Julie P | TM to follow up and pass to Simon Charleton |
| Review and update Terms of Reference document | TM, PM and ED |
| All to see if they have any photographs of learners for SE19 leaflet | ALL to review and pass onto to RP |
| All LAs reps and College reps to have conversations with managers about content and circulation of Group A document amongst colleagues.  | ALL pass comments back to RP by end of November  |
| JP to provide contact to PM for NHS National Transition Team. | JP |
| Group B to arrange third Task and Finish meeting and report back to next SE19 regional PFA meeting | PM |
| Email GB any links / contacts in schools that can assist Group C.  | ALL |
| Group C to arrange next Task and Finish meeting and report back to next SE19 regional PFA meeting | GB |