**S.E.19 SEND Joint Conversation**

**30th November 2021**

**12:00 - 13:30**

**Notes of meeting**

| **Local Authority/ Organisation** | **Attendees** |
| --- | --- |
| Brighton and Hove | Rhianedd Hughes |
| Brighton and Hove | Sue Franklin |
| Buckinghamshire | Caroline Hart (DCO) |
| East Sussex | Nathan Caine |
| East Sussex | Rachel Atkinson (DMO) |
| Hampshire | Anna Harper |
| Hampshire | Claire Campling |
| Hampshire | Alistair Hines |
| Hampshire & IOW | Matthew Powell (DCO) |
| Kent | Rosemary Henn-Macrae |
| Kent | Paul Crulley |
| Kent and Medway | Sue Gibbons (DCO) |
| Milton Keynes | Nina Broderick |
| Oxfordshire | Catherine Clarke |
| Oxfordshire | Charlotte Davey |
| Oxfordshire | Caroline Kelly |
| Oxfordshire | Andrea Cochrane |
| Oxfordshire | Adeline Gibbs (DCO) |
| Portsmouth | Karen Spencer |
| Portsmouth | Neil Stevenson |
| Portsmouth | Clare Poyner (DSCO) |
| RB Windsor & Maidenhead (Achieving for Children) | David Griffiths |
| Reading (Brighter Futures for Children) | Hester Collicutt |
| Slough | Chelsea Barnes |
| Slough | Claire Goss |
| Slough | Deborah Bowers |
| Southampton | Tania Emery (DCO) |
| Surrey | Mary Burguieres |
| Surrey | Julia Katherine |
| Surrey | Nick King |
| Surrey | Paula Vyze (DCO) |
| West Berkshire | Jane Seymour - Chair |
| West Sussex | Helen Johns |
| Wokingham | Jenny Hooper |
| Wokingham | Elaine Munro (SOPEP rep) |
|  |  |
| DfE S.E. Region SEND Adviser | Liz Flaherty |
| NHSEI Transformation and Quality Improvement Manager | Jacqui Stillwell |
| NNPCF SE Region Representative | Sarah Clarke |
| S.E.19 SEND Network Co-ordinator | Tracey Maytas |

1. **Welcome and background to meeting**

Jane Seymour, West Berkshire, welcomed everyone and reiterated the online meeting protocols.

It was noted that Bracknell are having their inspection. Good luck was sent to them from the region.

1. **Actions and matters arising from last meeting**

The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed:

* The DfE have a list of first and second contacts for SEND for all areas, which Liz needs to keep up to date. **It was agreed for Tracey to circulate the existing list of contacts in the SESLIP website for members of this group to update.** *In progress. It will be updated to add a secondary contact and Tracey Maytas will send that out for updating this month.*

**30/11/2021**: **Carry action forward.**

* Element 3 Funding Reviews for Schools - Proposal to benchmark figures against across the Region. Several LAs expressed interest in discussing this. Wendy to take these conversations forward with Tracey to help facilitate. *- Tracey and Wendy to set up a Task and Finish Group.* *Carry action forward.*

19/10/2021: It was suggested to do this as part of the proposal in item 9 instead of a task and finish group.

30/11/2021: On agenda.

* + **The annual review training will be run again in January/February 2022, virtually. Liz asked for volunteer LAs to present some piece of work they have done to improve their annual review timeliness. Contact Liz if interested in taking part in the training.**

**30/11/2021: Carry action forward.**

* **NDTi did a presentation about the PfA audit**. NDTi are looking for people who could be interested on this. **Anyone interested in getting involved in that piece of work, contact Liz and Tracey.**

**30/11/2021: Carry action forward.**

* **SEND Network meetings: Action: Tracey to contact LAs who do not have people have signed up for these meetings.**

**30/11/2021: Carry action forward.**

* It was agreed to put an agenda item for a future meeting about the structure of tribunal teams. - Tracey

30/11/2021: On list of future agenda items. Action closed.

* The pack from the DfE 'SEND Decision Making and the Law' legal training has information around placing in schools and how placing another child might have a negative impact on other children. Specifically slide 69. **Tracey to share which LAs had representatives attending the legal training.**

**30/11/2021: Carry action forward.**

1. **NHSE/I Update**

Jacqui Stillwell, NHSE/I Regional SEND, provided the following update.

* Changes to the team: Natalie Warman has gone off on a 12 months secondment. There is interim support from Patricia Haygan until Natalie's replacement, Wendy Keating, joins in January. She will be able to introduce herself in the next joint meeting.

There are 2 new part-time members in the team: Adeline Gibbs and Sue Gibbons who have joined as part-time SEND Advisers in the South East.

* The ICS maturity matrix for SEND is a national piece of work. Jacqui is the regional link for the South East. The first return had to be done in a quick turnaround and she received something from every system. Next return is due on 17th December. She has sent out an email with details on what needs to be completed.

In terms of contacts for the ICS maturity matrix, it was initially sent out to the person they have as responsible for SEND to ask for contact names. The majority of names provided are from health. DCO/DMO in Areas will be involved

1. **DfE Update**

Liz Flaherty, DfE SE Region SEND Advisor, provided the DfE update.

* SEN2 data collection:

She went through the embedded presentation.



This year, the SEN2 annual collection will be voluntary but it will be compulsory next year. Liz advised LAs to do it this year so this will show any possible glitches. No statistics will be published for the voluntary collection in 2022.

At the moment, LAs are asked to enter the aggregate numbers, in future LAs will put the personal level collection and they will aggregate.

Annual reviews information will be collated across all schools. The key date that will be needed will be at the completion of the annual review, when the decision letter is sent. Not all annual reviews are completed in a timely way so this will expose some of those delays. She suggested LAs to think whether they have information to supply and if they have systems in place to do annual reviews in a timely way.

Most LAs will have their own systems where all the information requested is already recorded. It is just to ensure that this system will allow for this information to be submitted for the collection.

The reason behind this change is to have a national comparative level which will allow more analysis of what is happening across the LAs in England.

The long-term ambition is that it will be an easier process, since LAs will not need to compile the data, since it will be sent on an individual level.

* There is still no further news on the SEND Review.

1. **Feedback from Portsmouth Judicial Review: Elective Home Education**

Neil Stevenson, Attendance, Admissions, Exclusions & Reintegration Service Manager, Portsmouth, provided feedback from the Portsmouth Judicial Review regarding Elective Home Education.

He explained that Portsmouth has had an increase on children being electively home educated. They put a protocol in place with headteachers in which no pupil would be taken off role unless there was a meeting with parents, school and the Local Authority before taking that decision. These meetings have been very successful in identifying and helping children return or start school.

There was a cohort of parents which were providing a suitable education but the LA had concerns for some of the parents for which they did not have enough information to judge whether they were providing a suitable education. A decision was taken that a report on its own was not enough to prove that. This sparked the elective home education community in Portsmouth to take issue on this stand and take the LA to judicial review.

The high court found in favour of Portsmouth City Council on all grounds, which allows authorities to request more than just a report if the LA considers that suitable education might not be taking place.

Portsmouth City Council are taking other cases through attendance orders unless parents come back with more information.

The public decision can be read here: [Goodred v Portsmouth City Council [2021] EWHC 3057 (Admin) (16 November 2021) (bailii.org)](https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/3057.html)

Neil agreed to share Portsmouth City Council's protocol around EHE. Embedded below.



Karen Spencer, Portsmouth, explained that the SEN team have adopted the protocol for those with an EHCP as well, so they can be sure that there is nothing that cannot be solved before parents choose EHE.

1. **Introduction to new NHSE/I SEND Advisers; People, role and remit**

Adeline Gibbs, Oxfordshire DCO, and Sue Gibbons, Kent and Medway DCO, explained that they started 3 weeks ago as NHSE/I SEND Advisers for 2 days a week for the next year. They will continue to work as DCOs in their areas.

They talked to the embedded presentation.



They remarked that they will bring updates to these meetings.

The following comments were made:

* Caroline Kelly, Oxfordshire, mentioned that this is a great piece of work. She is interested to know what initiatives there are to reduce wait times for speech and language therapies. She is happy to help with any of the work around that. Adeline replied that they are in the beginning of conversations on the impact of the pandemic on children. She will link Caroline with the national team. If there are other LAs interested in supporting this, they can contact Adeline or Sue.
* Sarah Clarke asked how this is going to be linked with forums in the area. Sue said that she will contact Sarah to get links. There is a strong DCO/DMO forum linked with parent carer forums where they can also get those contacts.
* Adeline and Sue confirmed that there will not be an aspect of their work focusing on children on SEN support, in terms of the challenges with children with significant health needs with a health plan but without an EHCP. They have a limited amount of time with small capacity. At the moment, they will focus on the priorities they have identified, which might change in the future depending on priorities coming from an emerging piece of work. Julia Katherine, Surrey, proposed for this work on SEN Support to be picked up in the DCO Audit.
* A discussion around language ensued. It was commented that sometimes health colleagues, in conversations with parents, mention that a child might need an EHCP which creates expectations from parents. Those children and young people might be found not need a plan after going through the EHC needs assessment.

Sue agreed that it is really important that the health workforce have a level of training where they have an understanding of SEND from when they are employed in the NHS. The vision is that everyone will have a form of training from basic awareness up and through, depending on their role.

Julia added that it is important to move away from a 'within child' model of SEND towards the social model that exists within the code of practice, i.e. the requirement for support will vary depending on the context.

* **It was agreed to have an update from the NHSE/I SEND Advisers as a standing item in the joint meetings with health colleagues. Action for Tracey.**

1. **New Joint Inspection framework (Standing item). Update from latest meeting, pilot inspections & any regional input required**

Tammy Marks, Southampton, could not join this meeting but she sent the following comments:

They are holding off on the development of "what" will be tested due to the need for this to align to the SEND review etc., so testing is focussing on "how" they will inspect, e.g. through case sampling, etc.

No specifics were given, but Tammy's guess was that it will still be a while until a draft framework is published for consultation.

Liz provided the embedded update:



There is a delay in publishing the new framework, since the SEN review has not been published yet.

**It was noted that an update from Bracknell about their experience in the inspection would be interesting. Tracey to ask them if they are willing to provide an update at the next meeting.**

1. **Update on co-ordination of cross-region requests for information**

Julia explained that it was agreed at the last meeting that some time would be dedicated to co-ordinate cross-region requests for information.

If members of the group have any questions for the 19 local areas, they were encouraged to send them to Tracey or Queralt. An online survey can be set up to be sent to all 19 local areas. All need to take responsibility to respond or send it to a person who is more prepared to respond.

This could potentially be a good way to share information. The responses will be shared.

**It was agreed that Tracey will liaise with Wendy Vincent to create a survey with Wendy's question around element 3.**

1. **AOB**

* Request to change time of Conversations meetings from lunch period - from April or sooner?

Julia explained that this came up as a suggestion in the steering group because all meetings were deliberately set up at lunch time during the pandemic, since people were working long hours and this was the only time to fit them. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that:

* The meetings already scheduled until April 2022 will remain the same.
* **Tracey to do a poll to see the majority view regarding continuing to hold the meetings at lunchtime or to move them to a different time after April 2022.**
* Sue proposed, in the spirit of joint working, whether health colleagues/DCOs could also take some responsibility in taking turns of chairing these meetings. **It was agreed that Tracey will approach health colleagues as well when asking for chairs.**
* A question was asked about the SEND Operational Managers Group meeting on Thursday. It was remarked that there is a range of groups under the SE19 SEND Network. **It was suggested for Tracey to send round an explanation of the various workstreams that sit under the SE19 umbrella so that local authorities can check they have the right people attending each.**

Some of these groups continued meeting virtually during the pandemic, but the SEND Operational Managers group did not since some of the members of that group started attending the SEND Covid Conversations meetings. It has now been decided to restart that group.

Karen explained that it will look at more operational issues that are not necessarily interesting to this wider group. On Thursday they will look at an item around developing SEN team structures, rising request for assessments for evidence writers and open discussion. It is not to have training or presenting, but about having open conversations for operational leads about assessment processes and challenges within SEN teams.

**A few local authorities were not aware of that meeting. It was agreed for Tracey to re-send the invitation to contacts of this group.**

**Future meeting dates:**

* Tues 25th January 2022 - LAs
* Tues 15th February - Joint

It was noted that 15th February is a deadline day, which can be very busy for local authorities. **Tracey to contact members of this group to decide whether to re-schedule this meeting.**

* Tues 22nd March - LAs

**Future topics:**

* SEND Review and funding (!)
* Type 1 diabetes NICE guidance (February?)
* New Joint Inspection framework (standing item)
* Health advice for C&YP EOTAS (February)
* Structure of tribunal teams

Please send any items or questions and queries you would like to discuss with colleagues to Tracey.

**Summary of Actions**

* The DfE have a list of first and second contacts for SEND for all areas, which Liz needs to keep up to date. **It was agreed for Tracey to circulate the existing list of contacts in the SESLIP website for members of this group to update.** *In progress. It will be updated to add a secondary contact and Tracey Maytas will send that out for updating this month.*

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* **It was noted that an update from Bracknell about their experience on the inspection would be interesting. Tracey to ask them if they are willing to provide an update at the next meeting.**
* **Tracey to liaise with Wendy Vincent to create a survey with Wendy's question around element 3.**
* **It was agreed that Tracey will approach health colleagues as well, when asking for chairs.**
* **A few local authorities were not aware of the SEND Operational Managers meeting. Tracey to re-send the invitation to contacts of this group.**
* **Tracey to send round an explanation of the various workstreams that sit under the SE-19 umbrella so that local authorities can check they have the right people attending each.**
* **Tracey to contact members of this group to decide whether to re-schedule the joint meeting on 15th February, since it is a deadline day for local authorities.**