

AD EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING

18th March 2022, 10.00am – midday

Present: Jo Lyons (Chair, B&H), Michelle Stanley, (Kent), Hayley Good, Kim James (Oxfordshire), Marie Denny (Milton Keynes), Mark Keiller and Ann Panton (Surrey), Celia Buxton (Medway), , Gareth Drawmer (Bucks), Clodagh Freeston and Derek Wiles (Southampton), Clive Haines (RBWM), Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth), Marie Denny (Milton Keynes), Paul Wagstaff (W Sussex), Johnny Kyriacou (Slough).

Apologies: Deb Austin (B&H), Cheryl Eyre (Bracknell Forest), Brian Pope (Hants), Jane Winterbone and Liz Mills (Surrey).

Guests: Kate Dethridge (RSC NWLSC), Paul Schofield (on behalf RSC SESL)

ITEM	Actions
<p>1. Discussion with RSCs</p> <p>Jo welcomed Kate and Paul and led a round of introductions.</p> <p>Topics discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes at the DfE, including for the RSC offices: to “provide a more unified voice across schools, MATs and LAs”. Anticipate all staff to be in place with new South-east office by July. • School improvement offer from DfE. RSCs are committed to a two-way dialogue with each LA, including to put certain schools / MATs ‘on the radar’ for school improvement support and to help to coordinate the support package (not to overwhelm a school). • School sufficiency, with a focus on smaller primaries often rural. System-wide challenge and DfE is in discussion with ministers about policy. Such schools too often in deficit which can act as a barrier to being brokered into a MAT. Yet concerns about losing capacity in the long run which population might grow again. One LA shared process agreed with heads that agreed processes for reduced PANs. • Academies and EHCPs: RSCs encourage LA to speak with RSC about individual schools or MATs which are putting up barriers or keep returning to ask for extra funding. • Safeguarding and Ofsted – concerns that LA not notified automatically at end of inspection if there are significant safeguarding or SEND concerns; waiting for report publication is too late. RSCs have raised this with Ofsted. • Refugee children: recognition that world events in Ukraine and Hong Kong are likely to result in significant, unplanned arrivals of children who require school places. Support services are usually required by children and families (translation, mental health, housing) and should be funded as well as school place. <p>Thanks was extended to Kate and Paul. Confirmation of next joint discussion on 14th October.</p>	
<p>2. Notes and Matters arising</p> <p>The notes from the previous meeting were agreed as accurate.</p> <p>Chris received no examples of headteachers surveys about school improvement nor specific school safeguarding examples to circulate to the Network.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Trans Toolkits: BHCC reminded about offer to share latest version. Portsmouth are happy to share their version too.</p>	JL / MS
<p>3. Children Missing Education</p> <p>Carrying out an exercise to share comparative levels of staffing for some CME-related services across the South-east. CO will circulate this once most returns are received.</p>	Chris

ITEM	Actions
<p>Attendance was most recent focus. Practice sharing of live attendance data systems (combined with coordination with early help and social care for rapid response with vulnerable children), LA – schools’ focus on GRT families to promote understanding and improved attendance and strategy to role out emotional-based school avoidance programme in coordination with schools and public health.</p> <p>Evidence of effective strategies has been published this week by EEF, who are inviting bids from groups of schools to conduct research enquiries.</p> <p>BHCC updated on Children’s Commissioner deep dive. Has been particularly helpful to identify existing partnership good practice and to highlight the importance of a sustained focus on improving attendance. Awaiting receipt of feedback report.</p> <p>CO raised the SESLIP data dashboard and that a review of it and revisit its original purpose should take place before the end of this academic year.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> Portsmouth and Hants are leads to coordinate with Uni of Portsmouth on a project to better understand motivations and experiences of parents who are EHE.</p>	
<p>4. Forward Plan</p> <p><u>Approach to take?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Responding to and implementing key policy announcements ○ One or two ADs to work with Chris on each focus area <p><u>Possible focuses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools White Paper – look at implications; Kent, BHCC ○ Safeguarding / Ofsted, and joint meeting with SESLIP Safeguarding Network – Oxfordshire, M Keynes, Southampton, Bucks, ○ Virtual school arrangements – Portsmouth; Oxfordshire ○ Evolution of LA school improvement: e.g. place-based; align with DfE offer; - M Keynes, Oxfordshire ○ Post-16 and careers – white paper and local practice – W Sussex, BHCC, Portsmouth, Kent ○ SEND Green Paper – Kent, BHCC <p><u>Action:</u> DA and CO to rework items into a plan for 2022’s meetings and CO to liaise with colleagues from LAs listed to develop what ground should be covered in agenda items.</p>	DA / CO
<p>Future meetings</p> <p>Agreement that continuing to meet primarily on MS Teams was the most practical arrangement. Perhaps one face-to-face meeting per year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6th May ● 1st July ● 14th Oct 	