

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

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

**Wednesday 9th February 2022**

**13.30 – 15.30**

**Notes of meeting**

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| **Organisation** | **Attendees** |
| Abingdon & Witney College | Jo Milsom |
| Activate Learning | Vronwyn Hutch |
| Bracknell Forest LA | Rhian Williams |
| Bracknell Forest LA | Warren Manning |
| Bucks LA | Christine Preston |
| Chichester College Group | Eileen Darby (Co-Chair) |
| East Sussex LA | Lucy Butler  |
| East Sussex LA | Wendy Gorham |
| EKC Group of FE Colleges | Jo Campbell |
| Fareham College | Jackie Bean |
| Farnborough College | Mary Campbell |
| Hampshire CC | Toni-Marie Leaf |
| Hants CC | Jan Bailey |
| Havant & South Downs College | Debbie Collinson-Bolles |
| ? Ifield School | Denise Moore |
| Kent LA | Paula Watson |
| North Kent College | Karen Richardson |
| Portsmouth LA | Sharon Willis |
| Portsmouth LA | Amanda Percy |
| Portsmouth CCG | Tracey Fisher |
| RBW&M LA - Achieving for Children | Joanna Safa |
| Sheiling College | Mike Gamble  |
| St. John's College | Karen Grist |
| Sparsholt College | Liz Wilson |
| Surrey LA | Andrew Stowell |
| West Berkshire LA | Jack Caine |
| SENCo Fareham College | Jackie Bean |
| Newbury College | Jane West |
| RSBC | Josie Grainger-Francova |
| West Sussex LA | Paul Morrison (Co-Chair) |
| West Sussex LA | Matt Clarke |
| **National/Regional Reps** |  |
| Association of Colleges (AoC) S.E. Region | Gemma Baker |
| AoC SEND Policy Manager | David Holloway |
| DfE SEND Advisor, S.E. Region  | Liz Flaherty  |
| DfE PfA Division | Katherine Davies |
| National Association of Specialist Colleges (Natspec) | Ruth Perry |
| NDTi PfA and SEND Leadership programme lead | Julie Pointer |
| Rep SE Region of Parent Carer Forums | Andrew Howard |
| S.E.19 SEND Network Co-ordinator | Tracey Maytas |
| Mott MacDonald SE Regional Support Officer  | Julie Huggins |
| Careers and Enterprise  | Georgina Angele |
| Careers and Enterprise | Wendy Gorham |

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**

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| **Action** | **Owner** |
| Review and update Terms of Reference document | **On agenda** |
| All to see if they have any photographs of learners for SE19 leaflet | ALL to review and pass onto to RP - **Completed** |
| 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 - **Completed** |
| JP to provide contact to PM for NHS National Transition Team. | JP - **Completed** |
| Group B to arrange third Task and Finish meeting and report back to next SE19 regional PFA meeting | PM - **On agenda** |
| Email GB any links / contacts in schools that can assist Group C.  | ALL - Try to arrange another meeting before Christmas – no meeting happened and happy to pick up in spring. |
| Group C to arrange next Task and Finish meeting and report back to next SE19 regional PFA meeting | GB – **On Agenda** |

**3. ToR for Forum – Eileen Darby**

Document previously circulated via email. No objections amendments. **Action:** Document formally signed off. **Action:** To be placed on PfA page of SESLIP website (Tracey M)

**4. SEND Review – Forum Activity**

1. AOSC and Natspec Activity

Ruth Perry and David Holloway presented (copy of slides attached). SEND Review going to publish as a green paper in the 1st quarter of 2022, DH anticipates this will be towards the end of next month. AOSC and Natspec are ensuring they are asking for the same things:-

* Transitions for students with EHCPS and with no EHCP’s and consistent transition arrangements.
* Parity with schools for non-high needs students.
* Fair deal for capital funding
* Reverse decline for specialist expertise
* Require strategic and regional planning
* Reform high needs funding and commissioning.

 **Action:** Slides to be placed on PfA page of SESLIP website (Tracey M) together with FE Leaflet produced by Forum <https://www.seslip.co.uk/live-projects/special-education-needs-and-disability>

SEND Review steering group:

Both RP and DH sit on this along with AOC. The meetings seem to be productive and interesting and DfE SEND review team are taking on board lots of what the group is saying. Tomorrow there is a focus group of principals to feed into discussions about Non-HN students. The issues colleges have about the SEND Review are being vented in parliament. DH said he is feeling optimistic about the green paper, officials are saying it will be very green. When published DH said we need to respond to the consultation, DH would like to use this forum as co-ordinating some of the consultation responses. DH said the journey from green paper until legislation could take 2 years, if any legislation is required then this could be part of an education bill. Perspective of Post 16 is being heard by DfE SEND Review team. DfE have said they want to design a system and then decide how best to fund it, so could be further consultation on funding aspects.

TM –Attended a meeting last week where DfE SEND department gave an update on the new contracts from April and they indicated that it will be about a 3 year process between green paper and legislation becoming active. TM said due to the length of time we need to carry on working with what we have and continue to look for practical solutions.

PM and ED had a session with DfE SEND Review team also. PM talked through a letter they have sent the review team outlining their views and what they would like to see in a Green Paper. *Copy of letter attached to email.*

**ACTION:** Consultation Response to SEND review to be put on next agenda.

**5. SEC 20 Special Education Consortium – Julie Pointer**

JP presented slides and talked to the document sent with the agenda. *(Attached)*

The Special Education consortium is facilitated by CDC and membership is quite broad, Natspec and AoC are both members.

The consortium have met with the SEND review team, put forward 20 asks (see attached document for more detail).

**6.Careers & Enterprise Company Update – Georgina Angele**

GA was accompanied by Wendy Gorham, *slides of presentation attached*.

GA talked about Careers Enterprise Company, who are the national body for careers education in England. She talked through the company’s mission statement and that they are now 7 years into their journey. They are fully funded by DfE and recently appointed a new Chief Executive Oli de Botton whose vision it is to help every young person find their best next step.

GA said they have found since COVID young people are facing uncertainty and those with significant disadvantage are in a more difficult position than they were before. These difficulties are not evenly spread geographically.

They have set themselves 3 priorities and a strategic plan to get there, detail on attached slides.

GA did a quick summary on what has been happening in the SE and Coast to Capital LEP areas; examples provided on the slides.

GA also provided a link to their community of practice - <https://careerseastsussex.co.uk/advice/careers-hub/the-gatsby-benchmarks/send-community-of-practice/>

GA has also provided an update on the Employment Passport – *see attached sides.*

7. **Feedback from AoC Conference December 2021 – David Holloway**

DH provided an overview of the last AoC conference. Some of the agenda items like SEND Review have already been talked about in this meeting.

There was a presentation from Nimisha Mistry and Cheshire West College who have become a 'Trauma Informed Practice' college. This recognises that some people have suffered trauma in their lives which affects their behaviour and actions. We know that when you invoke the disciplinary policy this is saying if you have bad behaviour you will be in trouble and for some people this can be counter-productive. To make trauma informed practice work in a college it cannot be done by one manager or department. Need to change the mindset as whole and develop a training package for teachers, support and ancillary staff. Some colleges in north west have moved to this model throughout the whole of the college. It is not always easy for staff to lead on this as some staff may also have experienced trauma and it will be difficult for their emotions to take on the emotions of students. DH said Nimisha presented it was a difficult journey but has been a very productive one.

TM noted that some organisations within of the Forum have expertise in Trauma Informed Practice and would be good to put this on a future agenda. Amanda Percy (Portsmouth) and Vronwyn Hutch (Activate) confirmed they have experience implementing this. **Agreed:** TIP to be on future agenda:

DH said another presentation was from Thomas Polkington who works for a trust and undertakes some charity work in the blind and partially sighted sector. They undertook research into colleges throughout the UK to see if they met the 2018 accessibility cabinet office guidelines for public sector. LAs and Universities had 50% compliance, colleges were way behind where only 30% of colleges met the legal standards. They also carried out a 'mystery shopper' exercise where they asked what courses were available to them, only 50% of those contacted got back to them with anything remotely helpful and listed what type of support was available. This research demonstrates that Colleges are behind and need to improve. AoC working with College Principals and are talking them through a toolkit to help them make courses more accessible.

A link was provided for the recording of the panel session on FE/specialist college partnership project includes some colleges in SE, begin at 00.31.34

<https://zoom.us/rec/play/ebhw5DUaVn6t5A_iJcFTWP2mkdjpRKulGi5EZh5KI0hr-hCGKwj-dhLLetHn0B0keDZcuuwoJ-5r99yP.NcgJgC7XOQXD-ecM?continueMode=true>

**ACTIONS –** Put Trauma Informed practice on future agenda (TM).

**8.Task and Finish Groups B&C – updates, key learning and next steps** **– Paul Morrison & Gemma Baker**

**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.

Follow on meeting held as agreed (action from the last regional meeting) but this has left the group with more questions than answers. The group have a draft timeline but feel there are key gaps and would like input to the timeline from DCO / Health & Adult Social Care to help with these gaps.

Tracey Fisher (DCO & PfA Chair, Portsmouth) offered to help.

PM shared draft timeline (see copy attached).

RP – would like to see a breakdown of exactly what should happen in the final year, there is also an appetite for this from the SEND Review team.

ED – really important to know which employers will take these young people on, work needs to be done with this.

AP- adults in education and adult in employment need to be looked at as two separate pathways.

**Actions:**- PM to arrange a further meeting of the group with DCO / Health & Adult Social Care representatives and any others who would like to join the group.

**Group C –** GB updated that the group were not able to meet before Christmas. She has sent out an email to group C as, similar to Group B, the original remit has evolved. Initially the group were tasked with looking at transitions into and out of college, but the group believes this needs to extend to schools. GB asked if anyone has any contacts with SENCO’s or schools that the group could possibly contact? JP said Linda Jordan is doing work with London and can see if there are any resources that could be passed on.

Lucy Butler said they had just appointed to a newly created post for Deputy Manager Post 16, this is a strategic role and will link into the iSEND deputy manager. RP asked for a copy of the job description.

**Actions:** Group C looking to make links with schools and meet with them, all to pass on any resources or contact details, anyone wanting to get involved let GB know. GB to send email to group, looking to arrange a meeting of Group C before end of Spring term.

LB to provide job description to RP and contact name to GB.

JP to see if any resources from the work in London can be passed on

**9. DfE PfA & Post-16 Policy Update – Katherine Davies**

KD has taken over from Ian Turley. The DfE team has restructured a bit, KD heads up Post 16 and Adulthood within the SEND Strategy Division. She reports into Susie Powell who sits within the Workforce and Outcomes unit.

Ian Turley has moved to work on diversity and apprenticeships.

Have recruited new team members, Rachel Leah on FE side and Post 16 provision, currently recruiting to another position, Rashida working on supported internship programme.

They are one of 3 SEND divisions within DfE, but there will be more restructuring. The three divisions are:

* SEND Review
* Strategy Division (KD)
* SEND Improvement and Operations Division (SIOD) headed up by Fiona Ngewzu. Regional case leads (Heather Campbell for SE) and SEND Advisers (Liz Flaherty for SE) report here.

All divisions work closely together.

Post 16 Preparation for Adulthood is really busy at the moment, engaging in the Skills bill, inputting to the SEND Review and supported internships programme. Last week DfE published guidance on internships, if anyone has any comments please let KD know as she is happy to make updates.

Link to guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-internships-for-young-people-with-learning-difficulties>

The Treasury have announced investment in the Internship programme, KD informed that £18 million has been secured to build capacity and double its size. There are currently 2250 people in supported internships.

TM asked if the DfE have particular job areas they are wanting to develop internships in. KD said the details will be out very soon but the intention is to open the programme up to more people and not limit to particular areas or employment types.

Adjustments Passport – Ian Turley is still leading on this piece of work in his new role, progressing to rolling out and testing it. This is a DWP led initiative linked to Access to Work and associated with the disability strategy. It is hoped the adjustments passport will help smooth transition from education to employment across different employers for the whole of a young person’s career. Identify early what adjustments that person needs, so becomes an up-front tool. If anyone interested, please contact KD or IT.

Questions was asked if the Passport was just for YP with EHCP’s or is it intended to help anyone with disabilities? KD said it is linked to Access to Work, so it would be a CYP with SEND.

Jack Caine asked if the funding regulations would change in line with this, as at the moment a CYP must have an EHCP to access supported internship but not Access to Work. KD replied the two programmes were separate.

**9. AOB**

Jack Caine – Is currently working on the Local SEND Strategy and asked if anyone has developed their own contract template for Post 16 providers. West Berkshire have templates they can share and West Sussex are also currently developing their own contracts. Warren from Achieving from Children from Slough, Bracknell asked same questions, TM offered to send an email out to LA Post 16 leads.

GB – DH and GB wondered if the group should look into what is being considered when colleges are being inspected. There are some emerging themes from recent inspections and High Needs judgements seem to be lower than other judgements. Questions to be asked are is that because inspections not being carried out very well OR some of the provision not moving with the times. GB happy to do a session for next meeting.

**ACTION:** GB to do a session on Inspection Outcomes

JP – As the DfE contracts from April have changed NDTi may not have capacity around PfA regional support and therefore may not be involved in the networks again. JP thanked everyone for their collaboration over the years and wished them all well.

The group thanked JP for all her help, knowledge and assistance and said NDTi’s support will be missed.

JP said NDTi have a PfA celebration event in March to showcase all the effective practice that is going on, link to the event <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/events/showcase-and-celebration-event-.htm>

TM – updated there are also changes regarding DfE support to coordination of regional SEND networks like SE19. The SE Directors of Children's Services improvement program, SESLIP, will pick this up and will continue to support this group.

RP – Natspec have been working on a briefing paper for Ministers regarding current staffing levels in specialist colleges. This is not COVID related but is looking at the long running levels of vacancies in specialist roles, and similar conversation is now happening in the FE sector. Conversations are being had around rising costs including the need to increase staff pay to attract and retain staff. There is also the increasing demand for places in specialist colleges and FE colleges as well. TM and RP have suggested the sectors need to work together on this and present a united view to government where possible. Some issues can only be resolved by government actions and suggest we lobby together, but there are some solutions that lie inhouse we could address together. RP has suggested holding a single emergency meeting and collaboratively work together on this. TM has briefing paper and will circulate to group. Anyone interested in working on this please email TM and RP – start with a small group which needs to be representative from provider types and LA across region.

KR asked if TM could email the SE19 'What Can FE Offer' leaflet, TM to circulate word version and PDF and put on SESLIP website <https://www.seslip.co.uk/live-projects/special-education-needs-and-disability>

WM – is in the process of developing short breaks specification and sent an email asking if anyone could share any specifications they have. TM said she is happy to co-ordinate responses on this.

**10. DONM**

Summer Term – Wednesday 18th May, 13.30 – 15.30

1. **Actions**

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| **Action** | **Owner** |
| Consultation Response to SEND review to be put on next agenda. | EB / PM |
| Trauma Informed Practice to be put on as a future agenda item | EB / PM |
| PM to arrange a further meeting of Group B with representatives from DCO / Health and Adult Social Care | PM |
| Group C looking to make links with schools and meet with them, all to pass on any resources or contact details, or if want to get involved let GB know.  | GB / ALL |
| GB to arrange meeting for Group C | GB |
| LB to provide job description to RP and contact name to GB. | LB |
| JP to see if any resources form the work in London can be passed on | JP |
| GB to do a session on SEND Inspection outcomes for next meeting | GB |
| TM to circulate briefing paper | TM |
| Email RP and TM if wish to be part of regional group creating paper for DfE re rising costs | ALL |
| All to email TM if they have any specification for short breaks | ALL |