

SESLIP networks Suggested guidance

General purpose of networks: The proposal is that the overarching purpose of the networks is to:

- Identify and share learning and good practice more rapidly across local authorities
- Develop inter-authority process and procedures that will improve efficiency and effectiveness in supporting children and young people, including with outside partners where these cut across the SE
- Foster innovation in areas where there are common challenges
- Identify policy issues for national lobbying.
- Enable peer support and development of group members by learning from each other and from other places eg bringing in speakers.

Specific purpose and work plan: Each network will have a DCS sponsor who will meet with the group at their first meeting and facilitate a workshop to identify more specific goals that the group proposes to work on within the next year. These would then be presented to the SE ADCS at their next meeting for approval, - see attached template Annex 1. The sponsor will keep in regular touch with the chair of the group and offer support where needed.

Chairing of the group: Ideally the group will elect a chair who would be supported by the DCS and in some cases by a SESLIP associate. The chair will take responsibility for assisting the group to form as a collective and develop a work plan. He/she will then assist the group to decide on the frequency of meetings needed to deliver the plan for the year and when and where meetings should be held. The group may also want to consider other ways of communicating between meetings eg Whatsapp group.

Membership of the group: Each authority will have the opportunity to nominate a leader to join the group. Each group should consider in advance whether it wishes members to send substitutes if they cannot attend.

Budget and resources: Depending on the workplan, the group may be allocated funding or SESLIP associate time to assist it in achieving the goals it has identified.

Reporting back: The chair of the group will produce a short report for the SE ADCS Chair, on at least a half yearly basis, summarising the progress the group is making on their agreed goals, and identifying any support needed..

Review: Networks will be reviewed on an annual basis to identify strengths and improvement suggestions for the future – see attached review template Annex 2

Ground rules

Each group should agree their own set of ground rules – areas to consider are in Annex 3

Annex 1: SESLIP network group

Title of group	
Core objectives	
Work goals for 2019-2020	
DSC sponsor 2019-20	
Chair of group 2019-20	
List of members and job roles	
Dates/times of meeting and venues	
Date next review	

Annex 2: SESLIP network group review

Title of group	
What has the network achieved this year?	
What has been the impact of this work in your LA?	
What difference has this network made to children and families?	
What are the strengths of the network?	
What specific things could the network do to improve its impact next year?	
What has been the learning benefit for you from attending this network?	
Any other comment	

Draft ground rules

SESLIP DCS's have identified a set of values which they feel should underpin all the work of the regional alliance. These are as follows:

- Mutual respect, openness and honesty
- Non-judgemental feedback
- The need to diagnose and understand why things are like they are
- A practical focus on how outcomes for young people could be improved

Groups may also want to consider the following:

How interactive they want the meetings to be – ie both formal and informal sessions? The first meeting could contain an icebreaker, if needed, so people can get to know each other.

Rules re confidentiality.

How to manage non-attendance/ lateness / substitutes or not

Rules around phones and ipads - silent or not /on or off the table

How to manage difference

How to agree, close and record decisions and actions / accountability re actions