AD EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING
24th January 2020

Broadway House Conference Centre, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NQ

Chair: Cate Duffy (DCS Slough)

Present: Kashif Nawaz (Bracknell Forest), Wendy Vincent (Medway), Sal Thirlway (Wokingham), Kate Reynolds (Reading), Paul Wagstaff (W Sussex), Brian Pope (Hants & IoW), Karen Nye (Hants & IoW), Kim James (Oxfordshire), Johnny Kyriacou (Slough), Michelle Stanley (Kent), Katherine Eastland (Brighton & Hove), Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth)

Apologies: Lucy Butler (Oxfordshire), Clive Haines (RBWM), Elizabeth Funge (E Sussex), Gareth Drawmer (Bucks), Cheryl Eyre (Milton Keynes), Derek Wiles (Southampton), Rachel Morgan (Bracknell Forest), Daryl Perilli (Brighton & Hove).

	Actions

Welcome and introductions / apologies.
 	
Reflections on new Government; its early direction and policies
 	
❖ Emerging agendas:
   ➢ Reviewing SEND system and 'high needs funding'. Tony McArdle is the chair of the SEND System Leadership Board and is an independent advisor to the SEND Review, alongside Sir Kevan Collins and Anne Heavey, National Director of Whole School SEND.
   ➢ A number of SESLIP LAs have a DfE Recovery Plan to address the deficit caused by the HNB pressures and that some meetings have been held with the DfE.
   ➢ Reviewing school lump sum allocations, so small schools are less disadvantaged.
❖ What should be on Government agenda:
   ➢ Fragmented education system: strategic partnerships (LA, MAT, RSC), quality and capacity of RSCs to deliver their role and responsibilities and in particular the capacity and ability of RSC offices to challenge and support 'failing' academies.
   ➢ Governance across the education system: consistency and rigour.
   ➢ Special schools' capacity: making capital available to expand / reconfigure existing special schools and mainstream schools, and move away from the limited arrangement that is currently available i.e. free schools.
   ➢ School improvement: limited national funding available following the demise of SSIF with a limited focus on RI / inadequate schools and funding for NLGs; limited investment in teaching schools, impacting on capacity for school-to-school support.
 	
Comment: does the current policy gap leave a good space to shape local policy with schools and drive a more local agenda?	

1. Update from Children Missing Education sub-group
 	
• First sub-group meeting was successful. Work on definitions and there would be value in supporting LA-to-LA support and development.
   o A proposal for development funding was shared. It was supported by the group and will be presented by Cate and Mike at next week's DCS meeting.
   o The group supports the Sub-group to discuss and develop joint policy positions for CME. These should be brought for discussion to the AD Education Network in
	Cate Duffy and Mike Stoneman

the autumn for final shaping into recommendations for SESLIP DCSs. Mike will provide a more formal update at the next AD Education meeting.
  ○ Restricted access CME page is being set up on www.seslip.co.uk . Agreed that each AD Education will oversee who is nominated to have access to this page from their LA and inform Chris. Purpose is to support sharing practice and procedures and materials as an aid to improvement.
  ○ Closer working and good communication with the Education Data sub-group is vital e.g. around work on agreed definitions so that comparable data can be submitted to the developing dashboard.
• Next sub-group meeting is on 14th Feb. The following LAs are asked to nominate an officer to link with the group: West Sussex, Kent, Milton Keynes, Surrey, Oxfordshire, Wokingham, Southampton. Please inform Chris Owen (chris@bright-spark.net and Kelly.rooker@Portsmouthcc.gov.uk).
	Mike Stoneman
	Chris Owen
	
	AD Education from these LAs.

2. Update from Education Data sub-group • See slides • Co-membership with CME sub-group will be agreed with Daryl Perilli and Mike Stoneman. • The increased importance attached to quality data during ILACS and SEND inspections was highlighted. Cate reinforced this and that it is important that where data points overlap with the existing Social Care Dashboard (e.g. CME, EHE) and SEND Dashboard that they are mapped and consistent. • Date of next meeting is 27th February. Milton Keynes have been reminded about a named officer to join the group.	Mike Stoneman, Chris Owen Daryl Perilli

3. Discussion: attainment and progress, with a focus on vulnerable learners
 	
Members worked in triads that were the same as the SESLIP Peer Challenge Triads, As far as possible. Feedback was that this was a helpful way of working: it was informative to present ones own LA data and also see how other LAs present theirs.
 	
Discussions reflected a number of overlapping themes: moving away from more interventions being a solution, importance (and difficulty) of compiling data so the LA and each school knows vulnerable learners well, and the importance of quality pedagogy "teach children don't deliver a curriculum".
 	
Feedback
 	
A) Context
  i) A cycle of senior roles with temporary contracts in some LAs has hampered concerted strategic focus on vulnerable learners and strategies for change.
B) Actions at local level:
  i) Rebuild / reinforce the importance of the local strategic partnership with schools; including a vision for vulnerable learners and growing a culture of mutual challenge and support within the partnership. Governance is an important element too.
  ii) Drill down into the progress of groups of learners e.g. those at SEN support: why are they improving / why not? White working class boys are progressing well in some towns but evidence things are more problematic in coastal towns; it is important to manage their transition points well.
  iii) Certain LAs found similarities with some of their demographic profiles, yet there were marked differences for certain progress and performance indicators. An area to follow up and discuss further.	

iv) Some LAs had found that investing in one or two roles whose business is to focus on the achievement of disadvantaged groups had borne fruit, plus identifying the teams who were also involved with vulnerable learners and working towards common approaches. v) Specific initiatives were highlighted such as: therapeutic schools and addressing emotionally based school avoidance (more information here: http://schools.westsussex.gov.uk/Page/10483). C) Possible actions across SE: i) Importance of education being linked with wider strategies: anti-poverty and support for families / early years; economic development strategies so employers can inform learning pathways. ii) Developing an 'Addressing Disadvantage Strategy' could be a vehicle to connect with other relevant strategies.	
4. Joint event with SESLIP SEND Network (now 1ˢᵗ May) and closer working. • Proposed focus for event: <u>Inclusive local education systems.</u> ○ To consider strategic, local authority approaches to championing the achievement of vulnerable learners, especially those at SEN support, through hearing from a local authority leader and considering national developments from ADCS / SEND review; ○ To disseminate projects from within the SESLIP area that are contributing to better learning and achievement for those at SEN support or in AP. ○ Presentations from Tony McArdle (Chair of the System Leadership Group supporting DfE SEND Review) and Charlotte Ramsden (DCS Salford). ○ Up to three places for each LA: encourage AD Education and a SEND leader to attend. • Interest in having some time to look at SEND Area Reviews and high needs funding recovery plans. This will be drawn into the planning for the day.	Chris Owen, Tracey Maytas, Lucy Butler and Cate Duffy.
5. Forward plan and matters arising • June meeting will include a focus on virtual schools with short, practice sharing from Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Reading. ○ There will also be some discussion about post-16 pathways: work developing in Reading and employability hubs in Hampshire. • Chris will liaise with the SESLIP Safeguarding Network about the possibility of a joint meeting in the autumn around shared agendas on child protection.	Chris Owen Kim James, Kate Reynolds, Brian Pope. Chris Owen