

SESLIP AD Education Network

South East Children Missing Education Network

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the South East CME Network is to provide a forum for colleagues to address issues associated with children missing education, specifically:

- School absence
- Persistent and chronic school absence
- Fixed term / period and permanent exclusions
- Reduced / part-time / re-integration timetables that go beyond 6 weeks
- Elective home education and de-registration
- Off-rolling
- Inappropriate alternative provision or exclusion by another name
- Child employment and entertainment licensing

The term 'Children Missing Education' is used in its broadest sense rather than the specific DfE CME definition¹. This therefore includes: pupils who are on roll but not attending; on roll but not allowed to attend; and pupils who are at risk of being off-rolled.

The Network will report to and be accountable to the SESLIP AD Education Network and will work closely with the SESLIP Education Data Sub Group.

2. Key priorities

The Network will:

- Examine the extent of the issues and current solutions/good practice local authorities in the South East are employing to address them
- Advise on a set of indicators, their definitions and updating that will feature in a SE Education Benchmarking dataset
- Consider where there are weaknesses / loop holes in the current system or other pressures that could result in children being inappropriately pushed out and therefore missing education
- Lobby and influence policy makers and consider national policy and reports
- Inform the LGA CME commissioned research which is being undertaken by the ISOS Partnership in 2020
- Establish and develop a shared directory of good practice, guidance documents, protocols, etc, that will be made available on SESLIP website
- Make recommendations for joint policies and protocols on CME to the SESLIP AD Education Network for possible adoption across SE local authorities.

¹ DfE definition: "Children missing education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school."

3. Outputs and impacts

These will include:

- A set of indicators that will inform strategies to reduce children missing education across SE England
- A suite of local guidance and protocols and processes that LAs should consider in order to actively reduce the numbers of children missing education and increase learning opportunities

4. Membership and administration

Membership of the Network will comprise officers from South East LAs who lead on these areas of work who are nominated by their AD Education representative.

The Network will meet on a termly basis.

The Network will be chaired in the first year by the Deputy Director, Education, Portsmouth City Council.

Portsmouth City Council will be responsible for co-ordinating and minuting the meetings in 2019/20 and arranging dates and venues for meetings.

Updates will be presented to the SESLIP AD Education Network and, where appropriate, to the SE Directors of Children's Services.