

Notes of the South East Children Missing Education Network held on 14th February 2020 at Shaw House, Newbury

Present: Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth and Chair), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Dave Harvey (Hants), Lynn Sims (Medway), Christine Clarke (Medway), Deborah Bell (Oxfordshire), Linda Curtis (W Berks), Gill Dunlop (Reading), Mark Keiller (Surrey), John Wood (Slough), Katy Daly (Bracknell), Gavin Thomas (Brighton & Hove), Viv Trundell (Bucks), Chris Owen (SESLIP).

	ITEM	Actions
1.	Welcome, introductions and notes from the previous meeting	
2.	Background / updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Terms of Reference</u>: with the addition of off-rolling to the purpose, the terms of reference were agreed. MS confirmed one of his responsibilities is to update the SESLIP AD Education Network and DCS Network • The LGA has commissioned the ISOS Partnership to undertake a CME research project that will focus on the pathways into a child missing education, the trends in numbers of those missing, the driving factors and its impact. The research will be undertaken through a series of workshops and interviews with local and national partners with expertise in this area. The first phase of the research will involve two workshops in February, one in the north and one in the south, the latter of which will be held on 28th Feb in London. 2 delegates per LA can be invited. RSVPs to be sent to Jordanne.McKenzie-Blythe@local.gov.uk. Neil Stevenson confirmed he would be attending. . . • MS gave a presentation about children missing education to the SESLIP DCS group at the end of January and presented a proposal for some development funding. The DCSs agreed to support the proposal, provided there is an allocation of funding from the DfE for 2020-21. CO will circulate any updates. • Members want the work of this group to link with national agendas and to be aware of the potential to collaborate with national groups such as the Association of EHE Professionals and the Association of Education Welfare Managers. Dave Harvey informed that he is the president-elect for the latter group. • The Office of the Children's Commissioner will, imminently, be publishing their own report about off-rolling and elective home education and this report is expected to name individual 'problem' schools. 	<p>Enclosed</p> <p>All</p>
3.	Update on CME indicators <p>The next meeting of the Education Data sub-group is 27th Feb. We wish to feedback and give a steer about CME indicators and data from this group. CO will liaise with Daryl Perilli (chair of the data sub-group) about these points and to feedback to this group following the data meeting.</p>	CO

	ITEM	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data indicators, for EHE and reduced timetables: remove the request for 'reasons' data. This is too likely to be subjective and inconsistent and a burden to report. The Data Group should, wherever possible, build on existing indicators where data is already sought by LAs. An 'at census point' snapshot and an annual total for each LA of the different groups of CME + suggestion about including lengths of time on a reduced timetable. • Agreement that we would want SESLIP to lobby Government to mandate LAs to report core CME data (based on the DfE definition of CME - which are potentially the most invisible and the most vulnerable). To enable this the DfE would have to direct academies and free schools to report this to LAs. Although many have local agreements, some continue to find difficulties with one or two MATs or individual schools to report data (or to cooperate with the LA regarding EHE and students on a reduced timetable). • In-year admissions: another theme to consider raising with DCSs and the DfE. It would make a big difference if LAs were mandated to have the lead role to coordinate in-year admissions for all schools. Whilst some unitary LAs have achieved pretty good engagement by all their schools, the county LAs have greater difficulty with 100% compliance across their much larger numbers of schools. • Cross-border data reporting and accountability is a challenge. How reliable is information shared from one LA to another when a child moves into area? • JW offered to share information about work in Slough to collate CME data across teams. • Ofsted is increasingly asking LAs to provide anecdotal information about schools that might be off-rolling. This has been pushed back by DCSs seeking agreement about a formal process with Ofsted. Some Ofsted inspectors seem to be raising off-rolling during school inspections; still not consistent. • 	<p>CO</p> <p>JW</p>
4.	<p>Focus on reduced / part-time / re-integration timetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBWM, Portsmouth, W Berks, Hants have emailed the local, reduced timetable guidance. These will be uploaded to shared page. Please can remaining colleagues email remaining docs / links to docs to Chris and Kelly. • Should DfE initiate a specific recording code for reduced timetables? At the moment most recommend 'c'. Should DfE offer guidelines about min number of hours of teaching that amounts to 'suitable education'? Can we seek an acknowledgement from the DfE that we can't expect academies/schools to always 'do the right thing'? We would like there to be an obligation to record and report and it would be helpful if this was backed up by support 	<p>ALL</p> <p>MS / CO</p>

	ITEM	Actions
	<p>from Ofsted, requesting information from the LA about reduced timetables when inspecting a school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ balancing act between supporting schools to offer helpful flexibility to a few pupils and precipitating move to PEx; ○ know many on reduced timetables have other vulnerabilities but hard to evidence with partial data; ○ reliance upon local agreements since there is no statutory requirement to report reduced timetables to the LA; ○ practice to ensure there is multi-agency meeting and plan before child with an EHCP or who is LAC is moved to a reduced timetable; ○ if LA seeks the data, are there processes to respond? • Oxfordshire: a recent JTAI helpfully highlighted the widespread use of reduced timetables and a complacent culture in some schools about their use. It is not clear if this will make it into the main report but it does provide a platform for change. • Hants: works from 'live data' from schools, including about reduced timetables, and has developed processes so that its Inclusion Team and/or LLPs follow up with schools. There are also arrangements to escalate prolonged reduced timetable situations to their Director of Education and Inclusion or to the Safeguarding Board (> 12 months). Promotes compliance to schools on the basis of child protection concerns. • Portsmouth is seeking the information from all schools, but have one or two that do not comply. There have been a handful of requests from Ofsted inspectors about such information prior to inspection but this is not the usual practice. • Brighton & Hove is starting to compile reduced timetable information from schools. • Reading is happy to share its recording spreadsheet that is distributed to schools half-termly to collate information on all on reduced timetables. • In summary: most SESLIP LAs appear to now be requesting reduced timetables data from schools, but not all, and compliance from schools varies in many areas. 	
5.	<p>Other CME areas for discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Access Protocols are often an important mechanism for managing CME across the local area with schools (e.g. pupils moved to EHE then back; prolonged and successive FP exclusions; persistent reduced timetables). Agreed that members will share their fair access protocols and any overview of processes: please email docs or link to docs (if on LA's website) to Chris and Kelly Rooker and they will be uploaded onto the CME restricted page. 	ALL

	ITEM	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical needs: recent Ombudsman finding against 2 LAs about not making tuition provision even though no medical evidence of need was submitted. Requirement to make provision (after 15 days cumulatively) is problematic in practice and is also exploited by independent schools. How well-informed and pro-active are governors to challenge their school? • What is current DfE agenda in relation to CME? Unclear: awaiting published response to 2019 EHE consultation; little action on Timpson recommendations. • Exclusions: is there a bit of a trend for some schools to rush to PEx then rescind following IRP? Usually due to school not adhering to statutory processes. Are governors sufficiently up to speed? • Info shared about University of Oxford research on 'excluded lives', led by Prof Harry Daniels, which was recommended: (http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/excluded-lives/ or twitter @excludedlives). • Robot solutions to home tuition/medical: Portsmouth and Hampshire are starting a pilot with AV1 robot (https://www.noisolation.com/uk/av1/) to be in class if child absent. Oxfordshire referred to a university trial and can share experience. 	
6.	<p>SESLIP shared area for documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO to update group membership list. Link or invitation will then be resent. Please click on, then change password and check you can access the CME page: https://seslip.co.uk/live-projects/children-missing-education-group-reports • Reminder that some shared practice is also available via AEWM https://www.aewmweb.com/ . • CO will aim to upload latest batch of documents and shared materials by the end of this month. 	CO / KR ALL
7.	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Schools Alliance – warning that this is group lobbying against support for trans children. • CO will circulate an initial list of possible areas to work on to recommend for a shared position across SESLIP and/or for SESLIP to raise with the DfE and the LGA / ADCS etc. Plus, another list of possible joint projects, should development funds be provided by SESLIP. 	CO
8.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>5th May 2020, 1pm to 3.30pm at Shaw House.</u> • Focus for practice-sharing and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical needs ○ Exclusions and FAPP 	ALL

	ITEM	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cross-border reporting/ information-sharing. 	

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