

AD EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING

Notes

5th June 2020



Present: Cate Duffy (DCS Slough), Lucy Butler (DCS W Sussex), Michelle Stanley (Kent), Elizabeth Funge (E Sx), Johnny Kyriacou (Slough), Paul Wagstaff (W Sx), Rachel Morgan (Bracknell), Cheryl Eyre (Milton Keynes), Simon James (Bucks), Jane Winterbone (Surrey), Ian Pearson (W Berks), Clodagh Freeston and Tammy Marks (Southampton).

Apologies: Brian Pope (Hants), Sal Thirlway (Wokingham), Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth), Kate Reynolds (Reading), Jo Lyons (B&H), Kim James (Oxfordshire), Clive Haines (RBWM)

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<p><u>Key actions and decisions:</u></p> <p>Helpful to have a time to discuss these current themes whilst so much is going on in the response to covid-19. A further video meeting to discuss issues and challenges for the new academic year will take place on <u>13th July 10am to 11.30am</u> (via Zoom).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CME Group: Chris to follow up with Tammy and Cheryl about representation from Southampton and Milton Keynes respectively. - Education Network updates to have more focus on local learning and developments in response to covid-19. Chris will send a reminder for items to share (Wed ev) ready for the update on the Friday. - Joint meeting with SEND Network: 25th Sept is currently planned to be a face-to-face meeting in London. - 	<p>CO CO/CE/TM</p> <p>CO / all</p>
<p>1. Current challenges and progress with school re-opening</p> <p>Updates by individual LAs, general points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good local partnerships have been established with schools. Meetings between LA leaders and headteacher representatives weekly or more frequently; to plan actions and overcome challenges. • In many LAs, primaries have reopened to year R, 1 and year 6. Where primary schools have capacity issues, year 6 have tended to be a lower priority. Some have had to implement rotas (especially smaller infant schools). Heads are reporting increasing confidence in making the new arrangements work and in returning children to learning. • Most secondaries are preparing to admit more year 10s from 15th June. We don't yet know the scale of the challenge it will be to re-engage some year 10s. • Most LAs have provided a core PPE kit for local schools. Many also report that local relations with teaching unions are constructive and there has been a willingness to work with heads on reopening. • The demand for places from critical workers has increased markedly in most LAs. This has led some primary schools to have to cap numbers. • Special schools: some variation with whether open or not and how many students attending. In Southampton schools are taking a rota approach and having 1 day per week when only open for individual appointments for pupils too vulnerable to return yet. • Issue of short breaks for CYP with high needs: due to distancing the capacity is reduced, yet the need is the same or greater. • DfE attendance form: a burden for schools. DfE advisers have commented that the frequency of return is due to request from SAGE, but also agreed it is not compulsory for 	

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<p>schools. Calls with DfE are less and less helpful. Request that DfE updates and new guidance are sent out in pre-planned batches. The drip-drip over half-term was very unhelpful and left school leaders stressed. Advance notice is requested of guidance for the new academic year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer provision: due to exhaustion of school leaders, most do not see summer schools as viable. LB reported that DfE are looking to make announcements about summer schemes. Watch this space! The preferred approach across LAs is to plan for the organisation of some activities, which are not to be delivered by schools, and that much of this should be paid for childcare if it is needed by critical workers. • Different approaches being taken to external education staff visiting schools: some will not until the new academic year, others are looking at this with HTs for this term. • Transition: worries about new entrants for year R, while some primary schools are in touch with secondaries and looking at how year 6 'bubbles' can visit. W Berks have developed a virtual transition pack that their schools can use. • Discussion about advice from DfE that parents can go to their LA if they think they are eligible for a school place but not offered one; the LA will offer a school place elsewhere. Does this apply to years R, 1 and 6? Or only to vulnerable families and key workers? • Additional concerns about returning to school from BAME families. How to engage and reassure families is a current challenge. • DfE laptops / devices are starting to arrive in LAs. Next step: distribution and how to get them well-used. • Schools have worked hard at outreach to vulnerable pupils. Now there are more pupils in school, LAs are putting effort in to ensure the focus on vulnerable learners is maintained. The MASH and Early Help teams in some LAs are gearing up for an increase in referrals following the wider re-opening of schools. • Other points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transitions and transfers are still a big theme, including to post-16 (colleges are worried about enrolment) and whether the numbers who are NEET will increase. There is a fund for AP to apply to for assisting year 11s to transition to post-16. ○ Whilst transport arrangements are being addressed, it is challenging to ensure sufficient distancing and there are increasing costs. ○ Can we help our schools to communicate an approach to summer catch-up to parents and students (e.g. Surrey reading challenge)? 	<p>IP to share.</p> <p>PW to share extract from guidance.</p> <p>See this week's update</p>
<p>2. What might academic year 2020-21 look like? What is our current thinking?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity from DfE will be needed and with enough time for implementation. • Schools are likely to need to maintain blended / remote learning and what should the quality expectations be? What might a 'recovery curriculum' look like and be supported? • What are the assessment and attainment requirements going to be? How can SATs and GCSE expectations remain the same? • What will the strategic partnerships with schools and MATs for next year look like? • Who will present the biggest challenge to re-engage in schooling? How reach out to parents? To vulnerable learners? • There is a need to develop local contingency plans for when there is a local outbreak or even a second wave of covid-19. • Addressing the disadvantage gap is a shared priority. How best approached? Evidence? Pedagogy? 	

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<p>3. Children Missing Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group met in May. Members at that point were very involved with LA efforts to monitor vulnerable pupils taking up school places, whilst also dealing with admissions offers for Sept (and appeals). • Concerns that the number of CYP who are electively home educated will see a major increase. This creates resource pressures for LAs. • Work is continuing on possible joint SESLIP position statements about CME and a draft will be circulated before the July meeting. 	<p>Chris Owen, Mike Stoneman</p>
<p>4. Forward plan and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: joint meeting with SEND network 25th September; • Look at themes and priority areas in response to covid-19 in July. • Offers of practice to showcase during joint meeting on 25th September. 	<p>Chris Owen to be in touch.</p>
<p>Future dates for the diary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th July 10am – 11.30am (via Zoom) • Joint meeting with SEND network: 25th September (3 or 4 reps per LA) • 27th November 2020 • 29th January 2021 • 12th March 2021 	