**Notes of the South East Children Missing Education Group**

**5th May 2020 via video conference.**

**Present:** Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth and Chair), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Dave Harvey (Hants), Linda Curtis (W Berks), Katy Daly (Bracknell), Gavin Thomas (Brighton & Hove), Viv Trundell (Bucks), Fiona Hostler (Reading), Beth Armstrong (E. Sussex), Andrew Macey (Kent), Hilary Alford (Kent), Helen Lovell (RBWM), Chris Owen (SESLIP).

**Apologies:** Gill Dunlop (Reading), Deborah Bell (Oxfordshire), Ellie Evans (W Sussex), Christine Clarke (Medway), Mark Keiller (Surrey), Melissa Perry (Wokingham).

|  | **ITEM** | **Actions** |
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| **1.** | **Welcome, introductions and notes from the previous meeting**Matters arising: give access to the SESLIP website CME page to Kent and W Sussex. | CO |
| **2.** | **SESLIP joint position statement**1. An agreed, common definition and description of children missing education (CME) for all SESLIP LAs. CME are children and young people of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school or are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school, together with 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 / excluded.
2. SESLIP will press the DfE for a mandate to be given to LAs to manage all in-year admissions for all schools (many of these children are or have been ‘missing education’).*Update” not all members are in agreement with this.**Case examples to be drafted.*
3. With the renewed emphasis on off-rolling and on pupils on a reduced timetable, SESLIP will press the DfE to review codes for attendance / absence at school; to separately code those pupils on a reduced timetable (as a distinctive absence) and share these data with their LA.
4. All SESLIP LAs are committed to their role in supporting vulnerable children and young people to have a suitable education. To this end all SESLIP LAs will seek to agree a protocol with all their local schools for termly reporting of a core set of CME data. Further SESLIP will press the DfE for a mandate to be given to LAs to have a core set of CME data recorded by **all** local schools and reported to the LA and then to the DfE.*Do we produce a list of core indicators?What about at MAT level?*

Mike and Chris to work on wording and ‘making the case’ and take these to the AD Education Network group for comment / recommendation. | MS / COMS / CO |
| **3.** | **Covid-19 impacts: Updates from LAs**The 10 LAs described some of the arrangements in place in response to covid-19 and some of the challenges now and in the future. The following are general points that emerged from these discussions:* Active monitoring of the attendance of vulnerable pupils is an on-going focus and challenge. Fair amount of phone contact to families, which has proved an effective means of communication.
* Feeling that there are many arrangements put in place that have improved two-way communication and liaison with schools in most LAs. Plus, thematic groups that discuss issues and share approaches / responses.
* Transfer and transition for children and young people to a new school is a concern. The plan for school re-opening needs to be clear before transition can be planned. Some liaison around pupils with SEND or who are vulnerable can work remotely.
* Some BAME families have left the UK during the crisis presenting problems about whether their children still have a school place and whether anyone has informed the LA.
* EHE a key discussion. The national focus on remote learning has added to the resources available to families.Anticipate significant increase in numbers who EHE from Sept, partly due to parental concerns about safety and schools. This will be a pressure. Bucks offered to share their EHE template.
* Attendance / absence processes suspended. Won’t attendance legal action have to be suspended into the autumn and beyond?
* Different ways of working, including video conferencing are becoming established. Many of these are likely to continue beyond September.

For next meeting can all share their local FAP and Medical Needs policies. Email to Chris to upload onto the SESLIP CME page.These will then be a focus for discussion in Sept. | COVTALL |
| **4.** | **SESLIP Development Fund for CME**Some flexibility in response to covid-19; though if we want to make any major changes, we will need to take a request to the DCS Steering Group.Possible joint working topics:* Cross-border FAP working – around managed moves when a pupil lives in one LA, but a school in a neighbouring LA is nearer. Trail and test arrangements? Bucks interested in working with neighbours. Kent has similar challenges between its localities and can share cross-locality agreements.
* Following discussions about changes to EHE support due to covid-19: increase numbers, more telephone / video support or contact; is there a project to help to embed these changes across a group of LAs?
* Stronger remote learning offer for pupils being tutored due to their medical needs. Strategies and content; quality and monitoring?

Agree to hold a video meet in late June to discuss proposals and possible ideas, following on from the current crisis, in more detail and agree a process for groups of LAs to apply / bid for funds.Date to be circulated. | HAALLCO |
| **5.** | **LGA – ISOS CME Project**Request that data table be completed from existing data (don’t put colleagues under demands to extract or re-work existing data by each LA and returned to Chris for **22nd May**. He will collate all received and return to ISOS for the national project.  | ALL |
| **6.** | **Any other business*** Liaison and links with other national / regional groups which overlap with the CME agenda. Ensure there is two-way communication;Ask other regions or the LGA how they manage arrangements.
* Video meeting has been positive. Perhaps alternate between video and face-to-face from now on. If Zoom continues to be blocked by LAs, perhaps move to Teams.
 | CO |
| **7.** | **Date of future meetings:** * 29th September 2020, 1pm to 3.30pm at Shaw House
* Focus for practice-sharing and discussion:
	+ Medical needs
	+ Exclusions and FAPP
	+ Cross-border reporting/ information-sharing.
 | ALL |