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| C:\Users\cfl0282\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\1.91 SE19 SEND Network.png***ASNNSN KMKRNNRTJNBTR***  ***SE19 SEND Regional Network Update***  ***December 2023*** |
| **Welcome** |
| Welcome to the December 23 update and thank you for finding the time to read it! We know how precious time is for parents, carers and professionals caring for and working with children and young people with SEND so want to ensure that the network is both helpful and relevant. Let us know if you have contributions to share or ideas that will help to keep the network meaningful.  Thank you for all of those who have contributed this term. The feedback received indicates how much all value the support of others as well as hearing about new practice and innovation.  You will find a wide range of contributions in this update from both regional and national colleagues, including several alerts and/or links to surveys in this update. We thought you might appreciate seeing everything in one place!  On behalf of SESLIP SEND colleagues, NHSE SEND network partners and our facilitators from SDSA, may I wish you all a happy Christmas and a positive new year.    Enjoy the break and see you in 2024!  Sheelagh  *Sheelagh Sullivan*  *SE19 SEND Network Programme Lead* |
| **News from the SE SENDAP Change Programme Partnership – explaining the ‘set up phase’** |
| The Launch of the programme took place on 19th September, and we are now technically in the "set up phase", meaning that the Local Authorities and ICB in the SE Region (Brighton and Hove, West Sussex, East Sussex and Portsmouth) have not yet started to test any of the areas in scope of the programme. As such, there are no early findings to report, yet. However, our Partnership has made progress! We have formed the steering group, comprising representation from all Education sectors, Parent Carer Forum, Young Peoples' voice, the ICB, and Local Authority officers. A project coordinator has been appointed, based in Portsmouth, to coordinate workstreams and facilitate the feedback loop with our delivery partners and the DFE.  All Partners are mobilising staff to support the Programme, which as you will appreciate, always takes time to achieve.  To date information packs and webinars have been shared on an overview of the Programme, the EHC template, Alternative Provision, and the Local Area Inclusion Partnership and Board (LAIP) and we are busy absorbing the detail and making our plans for implementation. Our next step is a workshop on 12th January to bring the steering group together to do some in depth programme planning, facilitated by one of our Reach Partners from the CDC.  A little more about REACh: The Reaching Excellence and Ambition for all Children (REACh) consortium is the name for the team of four organisations who are working with the Department for Education and local areas to test the proposed changes to the SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) System, as set out in the [SEND and AP Improvement Plan](https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources-0/send-and-alternative-provision-improvement-plan/what-send-and-alternative-provision-0). These organisations are PA Consulting, IMPOWER, the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) and Olive Academies. The REACh consortium will work with the nine regional Change Programme Partnerships (CPPs), made up of two to four local areas, who will share experiences, learning and suggestions for improvement, as they test out the key reforms outlined in the [SEND and AP Improvement Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-and-alternative-provision-improvement-plan).  The Partnership is keen to ensure that going forward, there is a comms plan for professionals and parents/carers within the Partnership and also the SE Region.  An overview of the Programme will be developed and shared and we will be holding an event with Parent Carer Forums in the Partnership to agree our comms strategy and feedback loop, within the Partnership and to the DFE.  The Change Programme Partnership is proving to be an exciting opportunity. There will more to report as we head into the Spring term. |
| **News from the Preparing for Adulthood Network Group** |
| The Autumn Preparing for Adulthood meeting considered what a shared vision for an effective system in FE might look like.  Ruth Perry from NATSPEC shared a document prior to the meeting for discussion. AOC and NATSPEC are working together on a shared vision for an effective Further Education (FE) system for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the importance of young people with SEND having access to high-quality learning programs. They are working on a set of questions for local areas involved in the change program to help them assess their existing 16 to 25 provision. They want to identify gaps in provision and understand the impact of high-needs funding on 16 to 25-year-olds.  Ruth noted the group feedback but also invited further input via email to [ruth.perry@natspec.org.uk](mailto:ruth.perry@natspec.org.uk)  You can access the report via the link below:  <https://natspec.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/IAG-final-report.pdf>  **The next meeting is on the 9th January 2024. You can join the meeting using the link below.**  Microsoft Teams meeting  [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWM5NGE0YmEtZDI0MC00OTRhLWJjN2UtODcxZDVjMzA5Yjk3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2251b8cdb9-ebb0-4a74-8e67-d1cc46223de7%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fc4f99fa-4a4a-431d-a4f2-0f52604c3275%22%7d)  Ellen Atkinson (Facilitator SE19 PfA Network- SESLIP)  [ejatkinson@me.com](mailto:ejatkinson@me.com) |
| **DfE EHCP Policy reform Team – anonymous survey** |
| The Department for Education's EHCP policy reform teams would like to learn more about practitioners' experiences in providing (or commissioning) EHC needs assessment advice. Findings will be used to inform policy development on whether the process could be improved to provide better plans and reduced workloads. The anonymous survey has 7 questions, will **close at the end of December, and should take around 5 minutes to complete.**  THE survey can be found via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/GpAVkFf48L> |
| **New CPD on- line units from Whole School SEND (NASEN)** |
| Whole School SEND have launched four more brand **new online SEND CPD** units in partnership with [Real Group Training](https://ddlnk.net/c/AQjQ8gYQ3tzLARjq1N-7AiCI1tsmSf88ppgk8ZrfNrk62TWRT7yeYBU-snL2t0phZexIVyw). Funded by the [Department for Education](https://ddlnk.net/c/AQjQ8gYQ3tzLARjq1N-7AiCJ1tsm8N-8fRFksaolJgiCUbkwBtekGZVIrBbIsn4FmdzzjJI) as part of the [Universal SEND Services programme](https://ddlnk.net/c/AQjQ8gYQ3tzLARjq1N-7AiCK1tsmrbcdzfr1Ai3WMB7Jq6u4CtZonhzoXvIwKHmlgnmYMFI), the new units explore the following themes:   * Understanding **executive function** * **Memory** for learning * Developing **Maths** skills * **Person centred** working   They enhance the existing portfolio of 13 units which addresses aspects of ***Safety and Belonging, Language and Communication, SEMH, Sensory Processing*** and ***Physical Needs***. The earlier releases have since been accessed by almost 12,000 professionals, with consistently positive feedback. Units have been devised by leading specialists and are intended to be **easy to access** and quick to complete  To complement on-line units, NASEN are also offering live online discussions called **Specialist Spotlights**. These often involve the specialists involved in the development of the units and are intended to build on learning, share experiences and seek advice.  Please follow the link below for more information:  <https://www.wholeschoolsend.org.uk/page/online-cpd-units> |
| **DfE Internships Work Programme – free training/support offer** |
| Local Authorities across the region are currently engaged in the Internships Work, a three-year funded programme from the DfE. All LAs have a grant from the DfE to support the development of pathways to employment until the end of March 2025. The project is being delivered by a partnership of the National Development Team for inclusion (NDTi), The British Association for Supported Employment (BASE) and DFN Project Search.  A supported internship quality assurance framework has been developed and providers are encouraged to undertake a self-assessment of their provision and take advantage of opportunities to become peer reviewers.  You can find more information by using the link below: <https://www.ndti.org.uk/resources/publication/siqaf>  There is also free staff training and support available to all LAs from the programme. Please contact Ellen Atkinson at [ellen.Atkinson@ndti.org.uk](mailto:ellen.Atkinson@ndti.org.uk) for further information.  You can find more general information about the programme via the link below:  <https://www.ndti.org.uk/change-and-development/internships-work> |
| **DfE Elective Home Education Guidance Review – consultation closes on 18/1/24** |
| The DfE recently launched a consultation on proposed changes to the Department for Education’s non-statutory elective home education guidance for local authorities and parents.  The DfE have stated…  *Substantial changes have been made to the SEND material in the existing guidance. We want the updated EHE guidance to be a source of support for all EHE families, including those who have children with SEND. Therefore, we have made changes to provide clearer and more accurate guidance on SEND with regard to EHE. This includes more focus on advice and support for parents and carers of children with SEND; clarification on processes and practices relating to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans; and information about how EHE differs from other forms of Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS), such as that arranged by a local authority in accordance with an EHC plan. The guidance has also been updated to ensure more cohesion with the SEND code of practice.*  **If your local area has not yet submitted a response, please note that the deadline for replies is 11:59 pm on 18 January.**  Link: [Elective home education guidance review - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/elective-home-education-guidance-review) |
| **Council for Disabled Children (CDC) Winter Digest** |
| The CDC have produced a winter edition of the CDC Digest, which can be downloaded [here](https://councilfordisabledchildren.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=db9c34c777&e=65091aff05).  The Digest provides a range of articles and resources around the work of CDC and the sector as a whole. The winter digest includes:   * An update from Amanda Allard * An update from the Department for Education on the Change Programme * A blog by the Equality and Human Rights Commission * A new Disabled Children's Partnership campaign * Shining the spotlight on our newest CDC Member PWSA UK |
| **Events and Training Update from the CDC** |
| **Training courses**  Through the RISE Contract, funded by DfE, the CDC has a great range of training opportunities and events coming up in the new year from **January to March 2024**. The training sessions offered have been designed as a result of this year’s national SEND Workforce Survey and include:   * Data, Voice and Commissioning * SEND in the Context of Health: An Introduction * Person-centred EHC Processes * Preparing for Adulthood: Pathways across Health, Education and Social Care * Understanding the Equality Act, for senior leaders and practitioners * A Local Offer for Social Care and SEND: From short breaks to family hubs   These courses are taking place online and are free of charge, but spaces are limited and will sell out so please do sign up now.  To find out more, including dates and how to register, you can visit the [CDC Events and Training Calendar.](https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/work-us/events-training/events-training-calendar)  **CDC National Event**  The next CDC National Event is also booked to take place on **8th February 2024** from 09.30-13.00 and is called *‘Learning from and for SEND and AP Systems Improvement’*. This event is aimed at strategic leads in Local Authorities and Health and is an exciting opportunity to hear updates from the DfE, NHSE, CQC and Ofsted as well as a range of workshops to choose from. Again, to find out more including details of how to register please visit the [CDC Events and Training Calendar.](https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/work-us/events-training/events-training-calendar)  We look forward to seeing some of you there!  **National Children’s Bureau (NCB) survey- the role of the Designated Social Care Officer**  The NCB is circulating a survey to gauge the current position around DSCOs – who has one and what are the barriers that may exist in implementing this role. The survey will report in the new year and we hope to be able to make findings available to the network.  Please see below a link to the survey that has been circulated by the CDC. The survey closes on 12/2/24  The link to the survey is here and closes on Friday 12th January 2024: <https://iassn.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/the-designated-social-care-officer-dsco> |
| **NHS England SEND Awards 24** |
| We are delighted to introduce to you our first SEND Awards.    These first-time awards are hosted by the National SEND Team in NHS England working alongside key stakeholders and regional teams. They are intended to recognise contributions that everyone has made in the year 2023 for Children & Young People with SEN/SEND and their families.  A working group has coproduced 10 award categories and their process. The judges are looking forward to seeing the nominations .    **What do I need to do next?**  Attached to this email you will find the **Information Pack** which contains details of each award (including the nomination criteria and wider guidance) and instructions on how to nominate. You can nominate for any award as many times as you would like, but please note that a **new form** will be needed for each new nomination.    You can nominate yourselves, a team, an organisation or an individual for an award by [clicking here](https://forms.office.com/e/HEXtEZd8FD) once you have carefully read the attached guidance.    Please support us and share this email amongst your SEND networks and best of luck to all the nominees 🏆    **Key Dates**  The closing date for nominations is 15th January 2024.  An event will take place for finalists on 12th March 2024.    Sent on behalf of Lorraine Mulroney, Head of NHS England National SEND Programme |
| **News and information from the SE19 SEND Network** |
| **Courageous Conversation – SEND peer review approach for the southeast**  This opportunity is available to all LAs and some colleagues have started to scope out what will be useful for their area. West Berkshire is planning for their session to take place at the end of January 2024. Now 7 LAs are in the planning process. You can ask for a conversation to focus on what would make a difference for you. Colleagues have asked for a focus on the SEF, on the use of Alternative Provision, on the Area understanding of Assessment and when a child would benefit from an EHCP.  Please contact Chris Baird at [bchrisbaird@gmail.com](mailto:bchrisbaird@gmail.com) to take advantage of this opportunity and schedule a time over the next 12 months when you think your area would benefit.  **SEND Workforce Initiative**  Regionally and nationally, there is an increasing recognition of the challenges of recruiting and retaining the staff (leaders, managers, educational psychologists and case worker officers) needed to provide high quality SEND services. The SE19 SEND Network has secured support to undertake a piece of research to explore the extent of the problem and gauge the appetite of authorities in the region to collaborate on developing solutions.  To do this it has been agreed we will carry out some initial research in the form of a survey which will be conducted early in 2024 and, alongside this, interviews with key stakeholders.  The survey will be sent to the 19 directors of children’s services in the region early in the new year.  DCSs will be asked to delegate the task of completing the survey to a member of their leadership team. The survey will be accessed via a link and completed online (Survey Monkey) PdF copies of the survey will also be made available to enable collaboration in completion of the survey.  The survey will be open for 4 weeks. The results from the survey will be collated, analysed and shared with SEND leaders and used to explore the potential for developing a regional SEND workforce project.  In the survey we plan to cover the areas set out below:  **Demographics of your SEND workforce including:**   1. Number of posts (full time equivalents) in key roles (leaders, managers, EPs, case workers, SEND administration) 2. Salary range for SEND roles 3. Vacancy numbers/rates for SEND roles 4. Use of agency staff in SEND roles   **How are you managing the challenges faced?**   1. Details about agency staffing (including specifics of agencies used, managed service providers etc) 2. Exploring the extent of use of agency project teams (agencies offering multiple staff to contribute to completion of EHCPs) 3. Your plans around retention and recruitment of permanent SEND staff   **Your analysis of the current situation:**   1. Which SEND roles do you find most difficult to recruit to and retain staff 2. The main reasons for the difficulties faced 3. What you think we can do to improve the situation (as individual authorities and collaboratively) 4. Any examples of changes/initiatives that have had a positive impact in this area 5. Your priorities for a regional approach to the challenges faced   **We would welcome your thoughts and comments about the planned survey. There are two ways to influence to development of this project, they are:**   1. Email your suggestions for themes or topics you would like to be added to the survey to [mark@markevansconsulting.co.uk](mailto:mark@markevansconsulting.co.uk) by Friday 5th January 2024 2. We are also looking for volunteers to take part in short (30 minute) interviews to discuss the SEND workforce challenges faced. This is offer is open to leaders and managers in SEND services across the region. To arrange an online interview please contact [mark@markevansconsulting.co.uk](mailto:mark@markevansconsulting.co.uk)   **SE19 High Needs Funding Network group – questionnaire**  Following an SE19 High Needs Funding meeting at the start of the autumn term we agreed that a questionnaire would be circulated to the group to gather information regarding high needs top up funding in order to gather intelligence and insight into the differences and similarities as to how we manage our top up funding.  To facilitate this process, we created a [Google Forms](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=4-dt4pm39k2qfRZ1jHazMbN6tLbVIFtAiLP_Yyenm3BUMTZKNTFRNlJaMTlaWEtVNktSSTVRNkYzTS4u) survey that have enabled authorities to share your information easily. The next phase of this work will be an analysis of the data and a sharing of practice across the region.  We have extended to date to submit the form to 19th January 2024.  If you have any questions please contact [nick@nmkconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:nick@nmkconsultancy.co.uk).  [LA High Needs top up funding questionnaire](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=4-dt4pm39k2qfRZ1jHazMbN6tLbVIFtAiLP_Yyenm3BUMTZKNTFRNlJaMTlaWEtVNktSSTVRNkYzTS4u) |
| **Links to presentations from the SE19 December forum** |
| Thanks to all who joined the forum on 13/12/23. Please find as promised links to presentations below. We will circulate the Youth and Youth Justice presentation in the new year.  **Adeline Gibbs -Embrace Video** <https://vimeo.com/872344711/4a4854abd5?share=copy> |
| **Dates for your diary** |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Meeting Group** | **SE19 Regional SEND Forum** | **SE19 Strategic Leads** | **SE19 EHCP Operational Leads Group** | | **Time** | Wednesday’s  12-1:30pm | Wednesday’s  12-1:30pm | Thursday’s  12-1pm | | **Dates** | 14th February | 24th January | 18th January | | 24th April | 13th March | 21st March | | 12th June | 15th May | 11th April | |  | 3rd July | 23rd May | |  |  | 20th June | |  |  | 18th July |   **Network Meetings**  Please contact Ellen Atkinson and/or Nick King for dates of other network meetings; [ejatkinson@me.com](mailto:ejatkinson@me.com) / [Nick@nmkconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:Nick@nmkconsultancy.co.uk)  **Inclusion group** 24th January 2024 2-3.30pm  14th March 2024 2-3.30pm  Group agreed there should be a regional survey to check how inclusive practice is being encouraged and who leads. Hope to have membership from across the region from LAs and relevant stakeholders from education. Planned before the end of summer term. Buckinghamshire leading.  **Preparing for Adulthood forums**; 8th February 2024 - 10-2pm.  **High Needs Funding Group and Commissioning Group** January 2024  March 2024 |
| **SE19 SEND Network Meeting** |
| **SE19 SEND Network Steering Group Meeting**  Chair - John Macilwraith  Meeting Organiser – Joanne Parker  Facilitation - Sheelagh Sullivan  Date of next meeting: 16 January 2024 - 4-5.30pm  (NB. Please contact Sheelagh Sullivan [Sheelagh.sullivan@outlook.com](mailto:Sheelagh.sullivan@outlook.com) if you have any queries relating to this meeting)  **Potential new SEND Network group - DSCO network**  Interest was expressed in the past about establishing a group to support the role of the Designated Social Care officer for SEND (DCSO). There is now revived interest in developing a network.  If you are interested in being part of this group (or know a colleague who may be) please contact Sheelagh Sullivan and/or Ellen Atkinson. The network is very conscious of the stress and time pressures around all who work in SEND so it is envisaged that this group would meet on a termly basis.  **Contact**  We are keen for colleagues to share best practice in the forums and network meetings. If there is anything you would like to share at future forums, please do let us know using the contact details below:  Sheelagh [sheelagh.sullivan@outlook.com](mailto:sheelagh.sullivan@outlook.com)  Lauren [Lauren.stone@sdsa.net](mailto:Lauren.stone@sdsa.net) |