

South-East Sector-led Improvement Partnership South-East Children Missing Education Group Meeting 17th September 2024, 2pm

Present: Mike Stoneman (chair – Portsmouth), Jon Willcocks, Pauline Martin Ellis (Hants), Rosie Gossage (RBWM), James Fowler (Bucks), Bryn Roberts (Southampton), Jo Goodey (Oxfordshire), Andrew Parker (W Sussex), Ian Fraser (M Keynes), Kelly Lancashire (Surrey), Carole Vernon (Wokingham), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Katy Daly and Olly May (Bracknell), Simon Smith and Jesse Reiss (Kent), Anjali Sidhu (Slough), Gavin Thomas (B&H), Vidyu Narayan (E Sussex), Melissa Perry (W Berks), Heather Morris (IoW), Chris Owen.

Apologies: Ian Fraser (MKC), Mark Keiller (Surrey)

Item	Actions
Welcome and introductions	Mike
1. Notes of June meeting and matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike welcomed all and reviewed the notes from June that were passed as accurate. • Matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LG Ombudsman complaints: Chris to check what feedback there is from ADCS / LGA. Copy of summary about complaints to be recirculated. ○ Whatsapp group has started. Let Chris have your mobile number which can access the app to join. ○ CME / EHE data: deadline for this term – 25th Oct (same date as DfE deadline)? 	<p>CO</p> <p>All</p>
2. Protocols / partnerships with NHS to promote good attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracknell Forest: talked through developing stronger links with GP networks, via initial conversation with a GP and in conjunction with DCO and DMO. In the briefings for primary care teams, key points have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example questions for GPs to explore concerns with the parent ○ Set out local data re: attendance ○ Range of support options available via the school and by the LA ○ To increase understanding of the graduated approach for SEN ○ Advice: avoid making recommendations about education provision and open-ended sign-off from school. • Subsequently, BFC have been able to link primary care in with Local Offer better, including section 19 information. • Joint protocol is being developed with BFC, Slough and RBWM with health, drawing on the Norfolk joint agreement: https://norfolklscp.org.uk/about/policies-procedures/children-in-specific-circumstances/526-joint-protocol-between-health-services-schools-in-respect-of-the-management-of-pupil-absence-from-school-when-medical-reasons-are-cited • Exploring option of standardised forms and letter templates for GPs to make use of. • Presentation for GPs to be circulated to group members. • AD Education Network very supportive of these agreements being developed. Agreement that parallel agreement with ICBs, of shared principle and purpose would support the work. Chris to link up with South-east DCO Network about progressing this. • Other clusters of LAs are working jointly on similar agreements and support for GPs: across the west of Berkshire (W Berks, Reading and Wokingham), greater Hampshire (Hants, Portsmouth, Southampton). While Surrey, Oxfordshire and IoW have procedures and arrangements developed. 	<p>Katy / Chris</p> <p>Chris</p>

<p>3. Implementation of Working Together to Improve School Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions about recent DfE clarifications that school should use absent codes for: reduced timetable (later start / earlier finish), remote learning in the home (including AV1 robots) – not B or K codes. • Concerns from schools and LAs about undermining effective reintegration strategies (e.g. AV1). On behalf of the group, Chris will summarise the concerns so they can be flagged with DfE Director at next week’s AD Education Network. DfE have stated they are open to discussion about implementation issues. • Progress with implementation of WTISA: sickness codes and admin burden of double-reporting (to DfE and LA) raised by some schools. Key for LAs is monitoring that there is suitable education provided for students off sick (> 15 days). Forms being devised to gather information with schools to achieve this. BFC will share their version with the group. <p>Action: Chris to summarise points and Mike to share with the AD Network.</p>	<p>Chris</p> <p>Olly / Chris</p>
<p>4. Development of local s19 policy advice / statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education ADs keen for the CME Group to provide summary update information for consideration when revising local section 19 / medical needs policy. • Agreement that the summary should also clarify what lies outside LA Section 19 responsibilities. • Jo, Melissa, Gavin and Olly happy to linked up with Chris to develop this. 	<p>Chris</p>
<p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing reports of parents pro-actively seeking flexi-school options from their child’s headteacher. • Some concerns about private psychologists suggesting a student with anxiety is taken out on long-term ill-health and that this builds a stronger case for EHCP / specialist placement on appeal. <p>Dates of future meetings: 13th Nov 2024 at 2pm Possible topics: progress with S19 summary and funding challenges for this.</p> <p>29th Jan 2025 at 10am</p>	