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**South- East Regional Lead Members Meeting**

**6 December 2024 10.00am – 12 noon**

**AGENDA**

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| 10.00am  (10 Mins) | 1 | * Welcome * Introductions  1. Jacquie Russell West Sussex 2. Sue Chandler Kent 3. Bob Bowdler East Sussex 4. Bob Standley East Sussex 5. Heather Codling West Berkshire 6. Jonathan Bacon Isle of Wight 7. Sarah Hamilton Kent 8. Clare Curran Surrey 9. Suzy Horton Portsmouth 10. Roy Bailey Bracknell Forest 11. Wendy Griffith Reading   Apologies:   * Anita Cranmer Buckinghamshire * Stever Forster Hampshire * Roz Chadd Hampshire * Rory Love Kent * Prue Bray Wokingham * Amy Tisi RBWM * John Howson Oxfordshire * Adam Price Medway * Joanna Howcroftscott Medway * Tracy Coombes Medway * Puja Bedi Slough   **Other attendees:**   1. Helen Watson LGA Children’s Improvement Advisor and Lead Member support 2. Deborah Glassbrook Consultant with SESLIP providing support to Lead Members 3. Ian Keating LGA Policy Team Lead – agenda item 4 | Chair -  Cllr Jacquie Russell |
| 10.10am  (5 mins) |  | Minutes from last Regional Meeting – September  Minutes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting. | Chair -  Cllr Jacquie Russell |
| 10.15am  (5 Mins) | 3 | Regional Lead Members Group Terms of Reference  Helen has updated the Terms of Reference to reflect the feedback from the September meeting. These were agreed as the final version. They will be reviewed on an annual basis – so December 2025.  **Action: Helen to circulate the final version of the Terms of Reference.** | Helen Watson, Children’s Improvement Advisor |
| 10.20am  (30 mins) | 4 | Local Government Association – Policies update  Ian provided a comprehensive update in relation to policy including:-   * Children’s Social Care and high cost placements * Children’s Social Care workforce * Early years * Children not in school * SEND * Services for young people * Education   The slides referred to by Ian are being circulated with the notes and will be on the SESLIP Lead Members webpage.  Further information is available through the links below.  A good link to the opportunities Mission announcement which I was referencing is: <https://www.gov.uk/missions/opportunity>    And the press release for the schools capital for SEND announcement I referred to is here: [New specialist places to be created in mainstream schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-specialist-places-to-be-created-in-mainstream-schools)  The discussion about the new Ofsted schools scorecards at the meeting I was at was leaked to Schools Week by someone (definitely not me!) <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/ofsted-numberwang-backlash-over-leaked-report-card-plans/> | Ian Keating -  LGA Policy Team Lead |
| 10.50am  (15 Mins) | 5 | SEND updates  Deborah shared two slides about SEND and AP inspection outcomes. The key to positive outcomes is effective partnerships.  There are ongoing concerns about funding with, for example the £6k notional funding to schools not having been uplifted since 2013. And many Local Authorities are worried if the S114 override does not continue.  County Councils are not faring as well in inspections – so much bigger and more challenge with so many more schools. Difficult to identify and use levers of change.  There are also concerns about the churn of staff in schools and Local Authorities.  98% of Tribunal outcomes are in favour of parents. | Deborah Glassbrook, SESLIP Consultant |
| 11.05am  (25 mins) |  | Regional Updates – this agenda item is for Lead Members to have an opportunity to share anything they would find helpful to raise either about things that are working well or those things that are not working well/are challenges.  Lead Members shared key challenges within their areas. Discussions included:   * Financial challenges and Local Government settlements * Celebrating innovative work with staff * Regional Care Co-operatives. Kinship carers and monies they do or do not receive. | All |
| 11.30am  (10 mins) | 6 | Updates in Self-assessment Triads  One Triad has taken place. Two have been postponed.  Discussion about the usefulness and impact of completing the self-assessments and taking part in the Triads. Many Lead Members who have been involved in these previously have found it an extremely helpful and insightful process including not just focusing on what Lead Members need to be doing but also how.  Confirmed that the self-assessment is based on the DCS and Lead Members Statutory Roles and Responsibilities 2015.  It was noted that it is impressive in discussion with Inspectors to have completed the self-assessment and Triads.  **Action:** Deborah to re-circulate the self-assessment template. | Helen Watson  Children’s Improvement Advisor & Deborah Glassbrook, SESLIP Consultant |
| 11.40am  (10 mins) | 7 | Planning for 2025  8 Jan – Triad for West and East Sussex and Surrey  13 Jan – Triad for B&H, IoW, Portsmouth and W’ham  23 Jan – Triad for Slough, Bucks and S’ton  28 Jan – MK, WB and RBWM  28 March – Regional meeting and Expert Workshop. Agree this will focus on Kinship Care and Special Guardianship Orders.  The next in-person and joint Regional meeting with DCSs will be in July.  **Action:** All Lead Members who have not yet done so to confirm their attendance for the Triads.  **Action:** Helen to co-ordinate the Expert Workshop for March.  **Action:** Helen to liaise with Mac Heath/Carolyn Fair DCSs re Regional Meetings. | Helen Watson  Children’s Improvement Advisor & Deborah Glassbrook, SESLIP Consultant |
| 11.50am | 8 | Any other business – nothing raised.  Meeting closed at 12 noon with all wishing each other a wonderful Festive season. | Chair -  Cllr Jacquie Russell |