

AD EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING

22nd November 2024

Present: Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth CC), Ming Zhang (Wokingham), Natalie Smith (Hants), Michelle Stanley (Kent), Gareth Drawmer (Bucks), Clive Haines (RBWM), Naomi Carter (IoW), Trudy Pyatt (Surrey), Mark Storey (BHCC), Sarah Clarke (W Sussex), Julia Katherine (Surrey).

Apologies: Elizabeth Funge (ESCC), Christine McInnes (Kent), Kate Reynolds (Oxfordshire), Claire Hayes (W Sussex), Duane Chappell (Bracknell Forest), Clodagh Freeston (Southampton), Rebecca Smith (Medway), Marie Denny (MKC), Neil Goddard (W Berks), Brian Grady (Reading), Sarah Daly (Portsmouth CC), Clive Haines (RBWM).

In attendance: Lee Selby (Ofsted).

ITEM	Action
<p>1. Discussions with Ofsted South-east (Lee Selby)</p> <p>A few update points to accompany the slides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted national hubs have taken over certain functions such as managing complaints and 11A investigations. Lee would welcome feedback if LAs experience notifications to the wrong officers or other issues with progressing. Consultation processes for new schools inspection framework from September 2025: framework content during the spring, plus a request to nominate schools able to trial aspects of the new framework (spring) or full inspection (summer). Rubrik is likely to include certain aspects that will be school-led and start from their own self-evaluation. New frameworks across schools, early years, skills and ITE are to be implemented from Sept 2025. Updated SEND_AP and ILACS will take longer to develop / implement. Aim is to address the issue of alignment between SEND_AP strengths / weaknesses and those in school inspections. Aim is that inspection regime starts drawing on schools' context, as part of shift consider inclusion. HMCI in May called: "for inspection to support a shift to schools serving the community they have, rather than the community they want". Annual engagement meetings: consistent national format with separate social care and education meetings (in SE these will be on the same day, one after the other). There will be 1 hour video meetings about SEND_AP (only LAs that have been inspected under current framework). Ofsted in the Area: themed, grouped inspections will be attempted (one planned on early years in BHCC). Advice is to use the annual engagement meeting to flag possible themes of interest to the LA. 2024-25 will be a year of change with continuing evolution after that. Ofsted are still needing to prioritise its target to inspect all schools by July 2025. <p><u>Action:</u> The next AD Network meeting is a better fit with Ofsted's consultation timetable. CO will aim to include time to take part in the consultation in this meeting, with Lee.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>CO</p>
<p>2. Reflections on item 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of pace of change is appreciated. For LAs the transitional year to the new framework, including accountabilities for the local school system, will be challenging. Handling of complaints about schools from Ofsted are still a concern. Suspicion that the complaints hub does not always link to the correct officer and there is a need for trust and understanding of the local area for this to work well. Continue to review this on the agenda. Recognition that the DfE's RISE developments are consequential too and SESLIP will liaise with the DfE about involvement in consultation about this. 	<p>CO</p>
<p>Review September notes / matters arising</p> <p>Notes agreed as accurate.</p>	

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<p>Matters arising: LGO complaints - CO continues to reach out to other regions and ADCS about this but little expression of similar concerns so far. Review whether to proceed or park the issue at the end of next term.</p> <p>3. Local school system responsibilities - overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summaries from Hampshire and Milton Keynes were shared and discussed. Both were very clear and complemented one another: MKC a high level overview across the schools system; Hants key statutory guidance statements of responsibility for the system. Recognition that the details would vary by local area, such as in Surrey where there is a strategic Education Partnership which is a key resource of support for its schools. Virtual school and supporting school attendance were two other areas that should feature for LA. Is it useful to also note system group such as Schools Forum or LSCB? Natalie and Marie were thanked for sharing these examples and Chris will circulate them in the slide deck from the meeting. 	
<p>4. From the CME Group:</p> <p>a. <u>section 19 summary</u>: clear and helpful; perhaps add the clear statement about when s19 applies (15 days of absence). Request for the CME Group to help to draft a couple of short practice case studies. Particular interest in the use of SLAs with home schools, so LA provided education is focused towards reintegration and school signed up to this.</p> <p>b. <u>joint work with NHS</u>, incl proposal for joint statement of principle with ICBs: Edits were suggested to the draft, including specifying 'mental health' and focus across 'general practice' not just GPs.</p> <p>c. future <u>co-chairing</u>: Ming expressed interest. CO to set up meeting for further discussion.</p> <p><u>Action</u>: Request for s19 case examples to be fed back.</p> <p>Chris to edit ICB principles summary and then discuss across SESLIP about next steps.</p> <p>Ming, Mike and Natalie to meet to discuss change of co-chair for CME Group.</p>	<p>NS / CO CO CO</p>
<p>5. System-wide approach to managing demand for EHC needs assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice sharing from Surrey, with a strong focus on the partnership approach to reducing demand and on the drivers for this (some of which were perceptual and expectation rather than need). Recognise that Surrey is similar to other LAs and they are highlighting the work they had started. Ordinarily available provision guidance has been the foundation and recognise that shifting culture and expectations will take longer than trialling interventions and support. Julia was thanked for sharing the work developed across Surrey. A request to circulate nurture hubs proposal for schools. 	<p>CO/JK</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items for future meetings: Feb meeting and Ofsted consultation; and or DfE too? CO to clarify. <p>Dates of future meetings: 7th Feb 2025; 21st March 2025, 9th May 2025; 27th June 2025.</p>	