

AD EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING

7th Feb 2025

Present: Sarah Daly (Portsmouth CC), Ming Zhang (Wokingham), Natalie Smith (Hants), Michelle Stanley (Kent), Gareth Drawmer (Bucks), Clive Haines (RBWM), Naomi Carter (IoW), Trudy Pyatt (Surrey), Ashley Seymour-Williams (BHCC), Sarah Clarke (W Sussex), Elizabeth Funge (ESCC), Christine McInnes (Kent), Kate Reynolds (Oxfordshire), Clodagh Freeston (Southampton), Marie Denny and Alison Talbot (MKC), Brian Grady (Reading), Martin Rawlinson (Oxfordshire).

In attendance: Lee Selby (Ofsted), Paul Schofield and Rupert Salmon (DfE).

Apologies: Neil Goddard (W Berks), Claire Hayes (W Sussex), Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth CC).

ITEM	Action
<p>1. Consultation activity with Ofsted South-east (Lee Selby)*</p> <p>Sarah welcomed Lee from Ofsted who led us through key elements of the consultation about the revised schools inspection framework and school report cards.</p> <p>Discussion key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All inspections (of schools, FE and EYs) are proposed to be full inspections and the interval between inspections has not been decided by the DfE, since it is linked to the budget discussions for 2025-26. • The proposal is to move from a 'handbook' to a set of products: the inspection framework, the operating guide and the toolkits. In the proposed scale of judgements 'secure' equates to all statutory requirements are in place. • Inspection methodology: to adopt the use of a 'nominee' (used in FE inspections currently) – a senior leader who is embedded with the inspection team, so privy to what is observed and some discussions. • Schools with any aspects 'less than secure', will be scheduled for monitoring visit. The timing will be informed by the number of aspects that are less than secure. • Discussion about safeguarding concerns in an inspection and the LA, as statutory authority, being part of feedback. Although this cannot be guaranteed, routine practice among inspectors would be to invite LA if there are significant concerns. • Next steps: LAs to promote responding to the consultation locally and respond themselves. <p>Chris will circulate the slides to members of the Network</p>	LS / CO
<p>2. Discussions with DfE South-east – focus RISE developments (with Paul Schofield)</p> <p>Sarah welcomed Paul and Rupert, who then talked through a couple of slides about the proposals for school accountability arrangements, in particular the development of RISE school improvement interventions (targeted) and a local, universal offer. Paul urged LAs to respond to the consultation which closes on 28th April.</p> <p>Some key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will be subject to intervention if 2 x RI under the current framework or a 'stuck school' or 'causing concern' from 1st Jan 2026. The strategy for a school in 'special measures' will continue to be structural intervention to a successful MAT. Flexibilities in the position will only start being possible from Sept 2026 (legislation will be required). 	

ITEM	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first group of RISE advisers have been appointed (and announced), with more to come (and NLEs are no more). • The speed of decision-making for a school in a category is key, and has been a concern for LAs in the past. There could be challenges with conflicts of interest, actual and perceived, in the new arrangements and DfE is encouraged to address. • ADs are keen for the dialogue with the DfE to continue, particularly around the shaping of the priorities for the universal offer. This would do well to be informed by LA intelligence, the nuances of local accountabilities and to complement offers developed locally with schools and trusts. ADs are also keen that these discussions are seen as system redesign and that this is collaborative and iterative. • Next steps: SESLIP can host further discussions about the development of the school improvement offer across the South-east, including with other system reps such as CEOs. This discussion could be continued at the May 9th meeting. 	
<p>3. Reflections on item 1 and 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions about the immediate pressures on sufficiency of places for children and young people with EHCPs. The challenge of working within current arrangements and the demographic changes (in many areas: primary over-capacity and secondaries at capacity) to be a topic for forthcoming meeting. Milton Keynes and Reading offered to share strategies they have adopted with schools, including around SEN units. • Chris also was asked to post a poll about pressures LAs are facing about sufficient places for new entrants to school in Sept who have an EHCP. • The risk to children if there is drift and/or confusion regarding the evolving arrangements is a consideration too. ADs wish to flag with DCSs the value of LAs being round-the-table as the details in the South-east are worked through and as RISE offer is implemented so that lessons can be learned. 	<p>CO / MD / BG</p> <p>CO</p> <p>SD / CO</p>
<p>4. Matters arising and EOTAS / CME Group:</p> <p>a. EOTAS: work to identify root causes and summarise approaches being developed.</p> <p>b. LGO complaints and proposal for joint statement of principle with ICBs.</p> <p>c. Feedback to LAC with an EHCP element 3 consultation paper.</p> <p>These were all dealt with by written update by Chris in follow-up to the meeting.</p>	<p>CO</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Actions from today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • circulation of consultation materials and update of actions from the CME Group; • request further discussions about the developing middle tier in the South-east • discussions about increasing SEND capacity in mainstreams (March) <p>Dates of future meetings: 21st March 2025, 9th May 2025 (London); 27th June 2025.</p>	