

**S.E.19 SEND Conversations**

**Wednesday 25th May 2021**

**12:30 - 13:30**

**Notes of meeting**

| **Local Authority/ Organisation** | **Attendees**  |
| --- | --- |
| Bracknell Forest | Kashif Nawaz |
| Brighton and Hove  | Rhianned Hughes |
| East Sussex | Luke Ede  |
| Hampshire | Jayne Howarth |
| Isle of Wight | Kate Symes |
| Kent | Louise Hickman |
| Medway | Wendy Vincent |
| Oxfordshire | Catherine Clarke  |
| Portsmouth | Julia Katherine |
| Portsmouth | Karen Spencer |
| RB Windsor & Maidenhead (Achieving for Children) | David Griffiths  |
| RB Windsor & Maidenhead (Achieving for Children) | Clive Haines |
| RB Windsor & Maidenhead (Achieving for Children) | Kelly Nash |
| Reading (Brighter Futures for Children) | Hester Collicutt |
| Reading (Brighter Futures for Children) | Nikki Stevens |
| Reading (Brighter Futures for Children) | Kate Reynolds |
| Slough | Deborah Bowers |
| Slough | Johnny Kyriacou |
| Slough | Emma Kinrade |
| Southampton | Tammy Marks - Chair |
| Surrey  | Sharon Scott |
| Surrey | Hayley Connor |
| Surrey | Nick King |
| West Berkshire | Jane Seymour |
| West Sussex | Helen Johns  |
| West Sussex | Jo Hill |
| Wokingham | Pamela Iyer |
| Wokingham | Hayley Rees |
| Wokingham | Jenny Hooper |
| Wokingham | Daniel Robinson |
| DfE S.E. Region SEND Adviser | Liz Flaherty |
| S.E.19 SEND Network Co-ordinator | Tracey Maytas |

1. **Welcome and background to meeting - changes and new focus**

Tammy Marks, Southampton, welcomed everyone and reiterated the online meeting protocols.

1. **Actions and matters arising from last meeting**

The actions from the previous meetings were reviewed:

* **Feedback from NHSE/I SEND Review: Liz Flaherty, DfE S.E. Region SEND Adviser, will follow-up with Natalie Warman to see if she has anything else to share with us.** *- To carry forward to the next joint meeting (June) for Natalie to update.*
* The DfE have a list of first and second contacts for SEND for all areas, which Liz needs to keep up-to-date. **It was agreed for Tracey to circulate the existing list of contacts in the SESLIP website for members of this group to update.** *In progress. The SESLIP website will be updated to add a secondary contact.*
* Outstanding initial SEND inspections: Liz has requested clarity whether the phone calls will start on 1st June or the week before.

- *Liz reported that the response she received simply re-confirmed that inspections will start from 1st June.*

* Liz asked if members of this group could send her good examples of the following:
	1. Integrated commissioning of SALT services
	2. Personal health budgets
	3. ASD pathways
	4. SEN support and mainstream approaches for ASD

*- Completed. Liz received several replies.*

* Tracey to add an agenda item for next meeting for Tammy to update on the new inspection framework discussions. - *On agenda.*
* Any members of the meeting who felt they do not have the authority to adopt the MoU to seek formal approval as appropriate and inform Tracey if their local authority wishes to opt out.*- Completed. There will be an opt-out option. Those LAs that do not want to participate need to inform Tracey.*
* CDC Consultation on Standardised EHCP:
	1. Liz agreed to share the notes from her colleague who attended. Tracey to circulate those notes. *- Completed.*
	2. Tracey to feed back to CDC that no-one from this region was able to attend due to the meeting being full. - *Completed.*

Tracey to add this item in the agenda of the next meeting. - *Completed.*

1. **DfE update**

Liz Flaherty, DfE S.E. Region SEND Adviser, provided the following update:

* The DfE are keeping a very close eye on the Indian virus in schools on the North East of Hampshire going into Surrey. The surge testing is starting.
* Concern has been raised about feedback to a national survey by Disabled Children's Partnership about lack of therapy delivery as children have gone back into school. However, it has not come up as an issue in the conversations between Liz and LAs in the region. Meeting was asked for feedback. **Let Liz know if you are aware of this happening in your area.**
* The funding for SENDIASS for this year is £10k, slightly lower than previously. André will double check and confirm.
* The SEN2 data is out and a national analysis is being looked at. **It was agreed for Liz to do a session about the national picture in the next meeting.** **Tracey to put in the next agenda.**
* Support offer for 2021/22 is out. There is a mix of the targeted and regional support from NDTi, CDC, Whole School SEND, etc. Liz and Tracey will meet to try to coordinate that better across the South East.

SEND Improvement and Intervention Unit - new structure and staffing

* The SEND Improvement and Intervention unit organigram was circulated with the agenda. They are working out and determining what their roles should be. Liz shared some slides with their current role described *(to be circulated)*

Liz is the point of contact for the region and she liaises with Heather Campbell frequently.

1. **SE Region SEND Data Benchmarking Group; who is taking part, what they do and how you can benefit from their work**

Luke Ede, East Sussex/SESLIP, gave a presentation on the SEND Data Benchmarking work.

* The purpose of the South East Data Benchmarking Group is to provide accurate and timely data, provide support to specific projects in the region and to Directors in preparation of data for Ofsted, provide reports which support the SESLIP and feedback on data issues to the DfE, Ofsted, etc.
* They create the SEND dashboards twice a year in March and October.
* Their data sources are LAs, the DfE and tribunal data from gov.uk.
* They pull the data early and report it back before the DfE. When the DfE publish the data, they refresh their data to fill some of the gaps.
* LAs are not obliged to send all the data requested. Some areas can be patchy when some LAs cannot send information or choose not to.
* 12 out of the 19 in the South East region take part in the meetings and contribute their data.
* The benefits of their work to LAs is that they publish the report before the DfE plus they collate additional indicators than in the SEN2 data alone.
* The reporting includes maintained EHC plans, personal budgets, high needs block funding, primary need type, social care involvement, placements, etc.
* Workshops are held twice a year where the Group review the dashboards and the issues that feed into.
* All dashboards are uploaded on the SESLIP website [https://www.seslip.co.uk](https://www.seslip.co.uk/) Access to historical dashboards can be requested.
* There is no obligation to provide data in order to have access but the more LAs who provide data the more useful the dashboard is.

The email contact for the group is: CSDataBenchmarking@eastsussex.gov.uk or

Luke.Ede@eastsussex.gov.uk

Tammy thanked Luke for the input and suggested he contact LAs not part of the group to remind them about it. **Tracey to provide contacts.**

Additional discussions were held as follows:

* Johnny Kyriacou, Slough, asked LAs if they would be willing to share good practice in terms of systems for gathering data and analysing EHCPs. The following was shared:
	+ Synergi, separate spreadsheets and an electronic EHCP portal which allows advice givers to put advice into the portal
	+ Capita One database and manual spreadsheets was mentioned by several areas
	+ Moving to Liquid Logic
	+ IDOX HUB for EHC
	+ Combination of data system (Mosaic) and manual entry/comparison
	+ Moving to EYES. Also using Invision for multi-agency quality audits of EHCPs
	+ Nasen are promoting EHC Hub: [Explore the EHC Hub (ddlnk.net)](https://ddlnk.net/2F68-1QZT1-AF4F7F6F7E4CEC45A9AFSOE0B03B3D5D96CE59/cr.aspx)

It was suggested to set up a meeting with interested LAs to look at it more closely.

**LAs to let Tracey know if they would like a meeting set up for this**

* Wendy Vincent, Medway, thanked Luke for the information since it has been very helpful for them, particularly through the revisit. They use it for forecasting, comparing their growth with other areas, the number of EHCPs per 100k population, etc.
* Julia Katherine, Portsmouth, noted that she had raised a question regarding the data requested by the social care benchmarking group. They added questions at the bottom of their data which do not tally with the SEN benchmarking data. Besides, without cross-referencing it with information whether the children are looked after or social care is involved, it is not meaningful.

Karen Spencer, Portsmouth, added that for the data to be meaningful for social care and health colleagues it should include their own benchmarking to see how they have done within their process.

It is not a good use of time to provide two different sets of data to two different groups and the annual figure is more meaningful. **It was agreed for Luke to take back the comment that it would make more sense to have only one line of reporting instead of two, so it would be helpful if the two groups could liaise.**

1. **SEND Review - Proposal/ Consultation on Standardised EHCP and latest information**

As discussed in the previous meeting, there have been a number of national events hosted by CDC around a proposal for an EHCP template but nobody from this group have been able to book on any of those events.

Jo Hill, West Sussex, noted that one of their managers attended the meeting and it was more a workshop rather than a consultation. The feedback was that there was a high proportion of SENDIASS in the meeting.

Slides and notes from the workshop shared by Liz had been circulated with the agenda.

**Liz agreed to contact Katie Moore regarding the current situation around the standardised EHCP and to raise the concern that the South East has not been able participate in the workshops.**

1. **New Joint Inspection framework**
* **Feedback from discussions so far**
* **Regional input to next consultation topic**

Tammy stated that two meetings have been held so far regarding the new joint inspection framework. The 3rd one is scheduled for Friday.

The first meeting focused on the key areas that needed to be covered within the framework.

The second meeting focused on accountability. They discussed the need for early intervention and how everything is so EHCP heavy. Tammy felt that there will be an expectation for more accountability of chief executives in the councils.

They also discussed how the grading will work. Tammy believes that they will have similar grading to schools and ILAC inspections. Wendy remarked that it would be positive, since at the moment it is difficult to demonstrate the improvement to partners.

This week's meeting will focus on the piloting. The earliest that it will come into play will be April next year.

A draft of the new framework should be sent out by summer term. They are aiming for consultation in the autumn term.

In terms of revisiting the SEFs, Tammy advised to focus on the areas for improvement and development and hold any paper updates until we see what the framework will look like.

**A question was posed around the timings of inspections. The current framework indicates 5 years but it is not clear if, for those with a WSoA, this is from the last inspection or being released from intervention. Tammy agreed to take back the question.**

It was noted that the follow-on to a WSoA had changed for those areas that have not been inspected in the old framework yet.

**Liz will share the relevant guidance.**

1. **Element 3 Funding Reviews for Schools; Proposal to benchmark figures against across the Region**

Wendy explained that they are looking at reviewing the way they fund the element 3 funding.

They have a historical band for each resource provision separately at the moment which is periodically reviewed and changed. They want to move into a system to match banding through provision of plans moving away from need.

She has found it difficult to find benchmarking figures and she proposed to benchmark them across the region.

Several LAs expressed interest in discussing this.

**Wendy to take these conversations forward** **with Tracey to help facilitate.**

**Covid Recovery Topics:**

1. **Impact of last lock-down on EHCP completion; Feedback requested on % naming schools by 15th February phase transfer date and % meeting the post-16 phase transfer date of 31st March - Hero Slinn (Buckinghamshire)**

This item was not discussed since Hero Slinn could not attend today's meeting.

1. **AOB**
* Request for models of Additionally Resourced Provision to share with London LA. LAs were requested to send information around that to Tracey.
* Future meeting dates:

Wed 23rd June 12:00-13:30 - Joint with Health/ NNPCF/ DCO/DMOs & DSCOs

Tues 20th July 12:15 - 13:45

* Future topics:
* SEND Review and funding
* DCO/DMO T&F: Health staff training framework (May)
* NHSE/I National Autism strategy
* EHCP outcomes: How many outcomes are needed?

Please send items to Tracey.

**Summary of Actions**

* **Feedback from NHSE/I SEND Review: Liz Flaherty, DfE S.E. Region SEND Adviser, will follow-up with Natalie Warman to see if she has anything else to share with us.** *- To carry forward to the next joint meeting (June) for Natalie to update.*
* The DfE have a list of first and second contacts for SEND for all areas, which Liz needs to keep up-to-date. **It was agreed for Tracey to circulate the existing list of contacts in the SESLIP website for members of this group to update.** *In progress. The SESLIP website will be updated to add a secondary contact.*
* The SEN2 data is out and a national analysis is being looked at. **It was agreed for Liz to do a session about the national picture in the next meeting.** **Tracey to include it in the next agenda.**

LAs were asked by Johnny Kyriacou if they would be interested in sharing experience in terms of systems for gathering data and analysing EHCPs. **LAs to let Tracey know if they would like a meeting set up for this**

* **Luke Ede to take back to Data Benchmarking SESLIP the concern about duplicate reporting requests (social care and SEND), so it would be helpful if the two groups could liaise.**
* **Liz agreed to contact Katie Moore regarding the current situation around the standardised EHCP and to raise the concern that the South East has not been able participate in the workshops.**
* **A question was posed around the timings of inspections. The current framework indicates 5 years but it is not clear if it is from being released from the intervention or from the last inspection. Tammy agreed to take back the question to the new inspection framework working group.**
* **Element 3 Funding Reviews for Schools - Proposal to benchmark figures against across the Region.** Several LAs expressed interest in discussing this. **Wendy to take these conversations forward** **with Tracey to help facilitate.**