

SESLIP

South East Children Missing Education Group

Notes: 23rd June 2022

Attending: Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth), Debbie Bell (Oxfordshire), Andrew Parker (W Sussex), Gill Dunlop (Reading), Rosie Gossage (RBWM), Christine Clarke (Medway), Katy Daly (Bracknell), Linda Curtis (W Berks), Gavin Thomas (B&H), James Fowler (Bucks), Jon Willcocks and Pauline Gilbert (Hants), Mark Keiller (Surrey), Hilary Alford (Kent), Chris Owen.

Apologies: Brian Pope (Hants), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Beth Armstrong (E Sussex), Melissa Perry (Wokingham).

Invitees: Sophie Hall and Rob Webster (UofP)

	Item	Actions
2.	Notes of last meeting and matters arising Notes confirmed as being accurate record.	
3.	DfE attendance policy– implications and challenges. Debbie Bell talked through a summary she had produced about the new responsibilities and expectations for school attendance set out by the DfE for implementation to commence from September 2022 (see Oxfordshire overview). Key points including from discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was general recognition that additional expectations are being made of LAs, which is complicated by certain service areas that had previously been traded are now expected to be core. Attendance is expected to be a more strongly multi-agency area of work, across social care and health too. Together with a stronger emphasis on legal, support orders rather than prosecutions and the enhanced role for virtual schools. • In terms of funding, there seems some expectation that part of the uplift in Troubled Families funding should support the new focus on attendance. • The WONDE attendance reporting system will be mandated for all schools to upload data daily. What reports LAs and MATs will be able to run from these data is less clear, but promised. • Considerable work is involved in attendance being joined up across children's services. Emotional-based school avoidance was also discussed and it was felt that this multi-agency approach was in line with the guidance. Action: members of the group are asked to share with Chris briefings their LA produces for directors / lead members, together with reports making the case for resources to fulfil new core responsibilities. Chris will upload to the shared CME library on the SESLIP website.	ALL
4.	Review of SESLIP Data Dashboard	

	Item	Actions
	<p>CO presented recommendations from the small group of ADs who had reviewed the current dashboard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be more interactive (possibly hosted online and accessible via the CME Group page on SESLIP site). Reinstate medical needs data: total numbers, primary, secondary and SEND. Lose the previous 'reasons for medical needs'. This was supported. Can LAs' approach to CME definition be broken down into two or three categories? Narrow – quite broad – broad. <p><u>Action:</u> Please send a link to your policy definition and CO will require to see if this appears feasible.</p> <p>Action: Chris and Mike will discuss these with ADs and report back on final decisions.</p>	<p>All / CO</p> <p>CO / MS</p>
5.	<p>Research project – parents who EHE</p> <p>Sophie and Rob provided an update presentation.</p> <p>Ethics approval has been given. The expressions of interest (EOI) email / letter was discussed. Small additions: to have a contact at the UoP for parents' questions and wording around value of research for parents.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Sophie asked for named LA contact for distribution of the email and for completing a high-level demographic profile of your LA's population of EHE parents. Please notify her by 27th June.</p> <p>All agreed to distribute the EOI to parents who began EHE from Sept 2019. Hilary offered to share the option to participate in this project with the AEHEP South group. Sophie and Hilary will speak to arrange this.</p> <p>Reference group to meet in last week of July / first week of Aug. Please inform Sophie of availability.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>SH / HA</p>
6.	<p>Updates and issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Education Ombudsman and medical needs provision was a topic of discussion and, potentially, a looming problem. <p>JW will share the Ombudsman presentation with CO for circulation to Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group also wished Gill Dunlop and Linda Curtis well for their futures. Both are retiring and today was their last CME Group meeting. 	<p>JW / CO</p>
	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>22nd Sept, 10am - midday 29th November 10am 17th January 10am 7th March 2pm 9th May 2pm</p>	<p>All</p>