

Terms of Reference

Project-specific South East Commissioners' Network

28 01 2021

Context

The SESLIP DfE Project Phase 2, funded by the Department for Education, is built on the learning of the previous project, Phase 1, Complex LAC project which successfully reported in May 2020.

It aims to develop detailed specifications for new and innovative provision for looked-after children - with four participating authorities (West Sussex, Kent, Portsmouth and Milton Keynes) on the Project Team who are contributing significant officer time to the project. It is anticipated that by the end of the project not only will the four Project Authorities be in a position to engage with the market directly using these specifications, but that outputs will become available in a structured way to the other 15 non-participating South East local authorities.

Certainly, all local authorities are likely to be experiencing similar demand pressures in areas which form the focus of the Project. It therefore makes sense to provide a communication conduit during the life of the project for relevant individuals in non-Project authorities to allow them to benefit from the project outputs (where possible within the project constraints) and prepare for future procurement activity.

We also recognise that there are likely to be significant existing and emerging exemplars of associated good practice across the South East that we are keen to record and disseminate.

Proposal

We therefore propose a time-limited (i.e. for the life of the Project, until July 31 2021) South East Commissioners' Network.

Purpose

To allow non-participating authorities to be kept informed of progress, outputs and timelines as well as exemplars of good practice in so far as is practicable within the constraints of confidentiality.

It is also hoped that the Network will provide an informal feedback loop to the Project Board as well as adding to a developing set of exemplars of good practice across the South East.

Benefits

- Receive news on project progress
- Sharing of project documents and outputs where possible, within the confidentiality requirements of the project. An example of this is early sight of the detailed LA Demand Survey, to provide a framework to inform internal discussions.
- Conduit for comments and suggestions into Project Team (although the timescales of the project may limit whether or not these are taken on board)
- Opportunity to have a platform for own exemplars of good practice (hosted on the SESLIP website on the public project page).