

South-East Sector-led Improvement Partnership

South-East Children Missing Education Group Meeting

17th January 2023, 10am - midday

Attending: Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth), Brian Pope (Hants), Fiona Hostler (Reading), Rosie Gossage and Clare Raffaelli (RBWM), Katy Daly (Bracknell), Gavin Thomas (B&H), Jon Willcocks (Hants), James Fowler (Bucks), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Melissa Perry & Sal Looker (W Berks), Sian Luke & Paul Nicola (Wokingham), Bryn Roberts (Southampton), Ian Fraser (Milton Keynes), Vidyulatha Narayan (E Sussex), Chris Owen.

Apologies: Anjli Sidhu (Slough), Hilary Alford (Kent), Christine Clarke (Medway), Beth Armstrong (E Sussex).

Item	Actions
1. Welcome and introductions	
2. Notes of November meeting and matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes from November were approved as accurate. BP reported that the previous DfE lead for attendance has been reassigned and he is waiting for a meeting date from her successor. ADCS is lobbying for additional resources to be able to implement the statutory requirements in the attendance guidance. SESLIP Education (EHE / CME) Dashboard. Alterations to the medical needs data fields have been made. However there is both interest in changes to data systems (away from Capita 1) and in the requests from DfE (WONDE and pilot EHE / CME data). CO will invite Daryl Perilli, who leads the SESLIP Education Data Group, to the next meeting for an item covering these areas. He will also circulate the contacts list for data leads and CME Group members are asked to check and return any updates to Chris as necessary. 	CO ALL
3. Children with medical needs, challenges and strategies From the round-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition that tuition, the most common approach, is a stop-gap and less ideal than a young person returning to school. Continuing upward pressure on numbers, with the rate of referrals increasing post-lockdowns. Intervention of LG Ombudsman also adds further to the pressure, with a small but vocal minority of parents wishing to access LA tuition as their child's on-going education provision instead of school. For some of these cases LAs have followed an attendance enforcement route. This requires persistence and resource, but has resulted in children returning to school and their education progressing as a result. Most are not accepting generic GP letter alone. Should be accompanied by recommendations for a care plan and/or referral to CAMHs. Some LAs have raised issue of wording of medical referrals with medical colleagues (GPs, community paediatricians and CAMHs). This has been resulting in useful dialogue about approach and move away from broad-brush statements. One or two LAs stipulate sufficient medical referral requires detailed assessment and recommended care plan or will not be accepted. Majority of LAs have purchase some AV1 education robots. Although there are some challenges with implementing, largely viewed as an improved solution and both focuses home school on its responsibility for the pupil's education and improves likelihood of reintegration due to access to continuity of learning. Making a case for funding for purchase / maintenance is a challenge. Jon from Hants has a presentation about AV1 use and happy to use this as an introduction to discussions at next meeting. 	JW / CO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Key points (to be summarised & shared with AD Education Network):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decision-making panels have many positives for managing referrals and reviewing evidence provided. BHCC shared its arrangement that has evolved to include CAMHS rep as well as community paediatrician. ○ Medical referrals: advice to GPs, CAMHs and paediatricians about preferred wording: “child has difficulty with school attendance at the moment and requires support in order to rebuild confidence to return to school” or similar. Instead of blanket statement such as: “child is too unwell to attend school”. ○ Possibly consider process for CYP with prolonged medical needs provision to commence EHCNA process due to SEMH need. ○ AV1 bots offer a good solution for many pupils (not all). Does require good buy-in from school leadership as well confidence from child to use it. <p><u>Action:</u> CO to summarise for BP / MS to raise with AD Education Network</p>	CO
<p>4. Attendance guidance implementation Implementation challenges for September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All LAs report that the new guidance extends the responsibilities of the LA; most specifically to providing monitoring visits with independent schools. • Many have lost significant income streams since their attendance service that previously was bought-in by schools / MATs is not to be provided. • Many are hitting barriers and reluctance to engage with prevention and support strategies for vulnerable learners' attendance from other children's services teams. As a result most are negative about education supervision orders and see them being little used. • Another major barrier to the enforcement arm of the guidance is the considerable court backlog. Hearings are many months away if an LA serves papers for orders such as parenting, supervision or attendance. <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These challenges to be summarised and reported to the AD Education Network. In particular to support lobbying for funding to deliver the guidance's requirements and about strategies to establish multi-agency partnership in supporting better attendance. 	CO / BP / MS
<p>5. Other challenges and burning issues Some discussion of unregistered AP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All LAs offer some level of QA of providers (via checklist largely) and these tend to be either listed on LA website or list available to schools, if they are considering commissioning places. Also checklists for schools to use to inform their commissioning. • Agreement that there is a safeguarding risk in current arrangements. Preference that Ofsted be tasked to register and regulate 'unregistered' provision. • Experience suggesting that AP is receiving an increased profile in SEND area inspections. 	
<p>Dates of future meetings: 7th March 2pm 9th May 2pm</p>	