



**S.E.19 SEND Operational Managers Group**  
**13<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
**12:00 to 13:30**  
**Via Teams**

Name	Local Authority
<b>Attendees</b>	
Christine Preston	Buckinghamshire
David Griffiths	RB Windsor and Maidenhead (Achieving for Children)
Maggie Buckley	SEND Team Manager - Brighter Futures for Children, Reading,
Harpreet Dei	Operational team Manager for SEND at Slough Borough Council
Clive Haines	
Catherine Clarke	Operations Manager Oxfordshire
Ellen Atkinson	SE 19 SEND co-ordinator
Anita Pitman	Assistant SEN Service Manager Isle of Wight
Nick King	SESLIP Consultant
Lucy Butler	SESLIP Consultant
Alistair Hines	Assistant SEN Service Manager, Hampshire County Council
Karen Spencer (Chair)	West Sussex
Katherine Everett	Education and Inclusion Service Manager (NE Surrey)
Kirsty Relton	SEND Team Manager Southampton
Sarah Clarke	SE NNPCF
Mark Evans	SESLIP Workforce Lead
Sheelagh Sullivan	SE19 Region SEND Network Co-ordinator
Becky Smith	SE19 Regional SEND Support

**Apologies:** Hayley Nowley, Jo Mcsherrrie, Kelly Nash, Lorraine Rumary, Sue Cotterill

**Notes of meeting**

**Notes from last meeting and matters arising**

**Action: Benchmarking survey to be shared with Steering Group as well as Mark Evans in advance of his attendance at the next meeting.**

- Mark invited to this meeting and item included on the agenda
- Nick confirmed that information regarding the benchmarking survey will be circulated today – any questions please contact Nick King [nick@nmkconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:nick@nmkconsultancy.co.uk)

**Action: Christine Preston to share Safeguarding Interview questions with group and to Becky/Sheelagh for pack**

- Safeguarding Interview questions shared with group

## **Regional Improvement Plan (slides attached)**

Sheelagh provided an overview of Priority 5 of the Regional Improvement Plan which focuses on improving outcomes for EHCPs. The Regional Improvement Plan is over a period of 3 years.

The group discussed what activity could be delivered in order to reach the outcomes of the plan.

Discussion points included;

- It will be dependent on what may come out of the Green Paper Consultation and how to be responsive
- Include tribunals as a key standing item for future meetings
- Recruitment and retention in health and EPs as well as teaching assistants and teachers in schools
- Currently research being undertaken by Warwickshire regarding EPs
- What are the impacts of these discussions and how they feed into the first bullet point
- SE19 website is currently being updated and will be a platform for hosting and sharing best practice
- Focus on practical solutions that can be addressed

**Action: Sheelagh to put a 1 year plan together based on the feedback and share with Chairs and Karen before presenting back to group.**

EA shared the following links from CDC and PfA Outcomes Framework;

<https://www.ndti.org.uk/resources/preparing-for-adulthood-all-tools-resources>

<https://www.ndti.org.uk/assets/files/Supporting-Planning-Writing-Good-PfA-Outcomes-March-2022.pdf>

## **Implications of Ombudsman report on children out of school**

DG shared a summary on the latest implications of the Ombudsman report regarding children out of school.

Discussion points included;

- The report links in with tribunals
- How to inform LGO and challenge professionally the context of families and the needs
- Need a better sense of attendance orders and prosecutions route for children with EHCP
- Consider what should be done at the stages before it gets to that point
- Parents are aware that there is a right to choose different providers.

**Action: LGO responses to be added onto future agendas**

## **EHCP Requests 2021 vs 2022**

Sheelagh presented the data collected from LAs EHCP requests for March-August 2021 vs 2022.

Once all LA data collated, this will then be shared with group and DCSs. Group to consider looking at pre and post Covid comparisons.

**Action: Colleagues who have not yet shared EHCP Requests data, to send this through to [becky.smith@sdsa.net](mailto:becky.smith@sdsa.net)**

### **Recruitment and retention issues (slides attached)**

Mark Evans provided an update on recruitment and retention and the learning from the experience of Children's Social Care.

- Increase in demand for Social Workers over the past 5 years with 500 more in SE19 compared to 2017
- Comparison between starters and leavers, insufficient number to deliver required work
- Review of the push and pull factors for agency work for social workers and how this can differentiate between LA including costs
- Memorandum of Cooperation on Agency Works launched in 2015 and re-launched in April 2022. This does not take away local decision making but aims to address key workforce issues affective social workers delivery
- Development of a SE Workforce Plan through a survey, focus groups, desk top research and hidden workforce
- 135 changes – stay ahead of the game but aware that changes are on their way.

**Action: To continue conversation around recruitment and retention at future meetings**

### **AOB**

- **Suggestions for future meetings**

**Action: Please send any suggestion for future meetings, please send across to Sheelagh and Becky**

**Action: Group to complete the following survey to share your feedback about the meetings <https://forms.gle/jCaVo4wnnTN4CkHZ7>**

### **Date of next meeting:**

All to take place on Thursday 12-1:30pm

1<sup>st</sup> December

3<sup>rd</sup> February

16<sup>th</sup> March

11<sup>th</sup> May

6<sup>th</sup> July

### **Summary of actions**

**Action: Sheelagh to put a 1 year plan together based on the feedback and share with Chairs and Karen before presenting back to group.**

**Action: LGO responses to be added onto future agendas**

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