



S.E.19 SEND Strategic Conversations - LAs Meeting

15th March 2023

Notes of meeting

Attendance	LA
Julia Katherine (Chair)	Surrey
Liz Flaherty	DfE professional adviser for SEND
Liz Robinson	Head of Inclusion Portsmouth City Council
Alistair Hines	Assistant SEN Service Manager, Hampshire County Council
Mark McCurrie	DfE SEND adviser
Deborah Smit	SEND Strategic Development and Improvement Manager, Oxfordshire
Steve Tanner	Assistant Director SEND, Kent CC
Jane Seymour	Service Manager SEND, West Berkshire
Neil Hoskinson	Interim AD for Education and Inclusion, Slough
Nina Broderick	Inclusion Service Leader (Milton Keynes)
Helen Johns	West Sussex
Rhianedd Hughes	Head of SEN Statutory Service, Brighton and Hove
Jamie Conran	Head of SEND, Wokingham Borough Council
Jayne Howarth	County Education Manager Hampshire
Sophie Dann	Strategic Lead SEND Kent CC
Karen Spencer	Principal Service Lead, SENAT, West Sussex.
Catherine Clarke	Operations Manager, Oxfordshire
Kate Bradley	Head of SEND, Oxfordshire
Kirsty Relton	Southampton
Maggie Buckley	SEND Team Manager, Brighter Futures for Children in Reading
Beth Armstrong	Deputy HOS, East Sussex
Diane Sanderson	Surrey
David Griffiths	SEND Manager, RBWM
Sarah Clarke	NNPCF SE Rep (PCF's)
Ellen Atkinson	SE19 SEND co-ordinator
Nick King	SE19 SEND Consultant
Lucy Butler	SE19 SEND Coordinator
Sheelagh Sullivan	SE19 Regional SEND Network Lead
Becky Smith	SE19 Regional SEND Network support

No.	Notes
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Apologies: Amanda Percy</p>
2.	<p>Actions and matters arising from last meeting</p> <p>Action: Strategic Leads to review who is attending each meeting from their LA and make sure the right people are attending and represented at the right meetings. <i>Ongoing action for Strategic Leads to inform Sheelagh and Becky of any changes to ensure the right people are at the right meetings.</i></p> <p>Action: Follow up item at future meetings to review how use of evaluation grid is supporting LAs to prepare for Inspection and an opportunity to continue the conversation. <i>Included in this meetings agenda</i></p>

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	<p>Action: Group to consider the option of a peer review/challenge and complete attached document. <i>Action to be moved to next meeting due to current developments in conversation with a focus on difficult conversations.</i></p> <p>Action: West Sussex DBV experience to be added to the next meeting agenda. <i>Included in this meetings agenda.</i></p> <p>Action: Group encouraged to complete the meeting feedback form as this really helps support the development of the meetings and network; https://forms.gle/6sRXLJvqFETZ6bmR9</p>
3.	<p>DfE Regional Advisor update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General DfE Updates (slides attached) • Opportunity for questions <p>Inspections</p> <p>Current or completed inspections include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warrington • Hartlepool • Enfield • Telford & Wrekin • Nottinghamshire • Cornwall • Southend-on-Sea • Brighton & Hove <p>Initial inspection feedback re the experiences highlights;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process didn't seem as smooth as previous inspection • Strong need for data to be seen and scrutinised including from health • National issues include shortage of EPs, timelines issuing EHCPs, waiting list for health services and lack of ICT integration between services e.g. GDPR across LA and Health <p>Thematic Visits</p> <p>Handbook published late January and can be accessed via the link below; Thematic reviews of alternative provision in local areas</p> <p>The attached DfE unofficial Thematic AP checklist is the Handbook in a deconstructed state, plus additional information that will be useful to consider.</p> <p>Phase Transfer Pressures</p> <p>To capture how things are looking including, number of plans finalised on time, how many on type only, how many mainstream placements agreed on time, increase in use of INMSS and Post 16 figures.</p> <p>The group shared their experiences.</p> <p>Advisors will follow up with each LA to capture accurate feedback.</p>
4.	<p>Key Points from the SENAP Improvement Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for questions and discussion

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	<p>Encourage group to read 'Easy Read Improvement Plan' succinct version on the plan. The vision is to create a more inclusive society.</p> <p>SEND and AP Green Paper sought to solve following problems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes for CYP with SEND • Experiences of navigating the SEND system • Too much inconsistency across the country • Not seeing value for money for CYP and families <p>Consultation included a significant response with 6,000 reviewed. Mission going forwards includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfil children's potential • Build parents' trust • Provide financial sustainability <p>Key areas in the Improvement Plan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Standards – what good looks like and will ensure right support, right place and right time. • Local Partnerships Groups – ensuring the right stakeholders are brought together in making decisions about support in a region. • 'Change Programme' new terminology • A three-tier model for alternative provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeted support in mainstream schools ○ Time limited placements ○ Transitional placements • Transition Arrangements – creating new Good Practice guidance • Supporting Professional Standards – underpinned by new National Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amendments to SEND CoP for 2025 ○ New SENDCo training ○ Improved ITT regarding SEND ○ Improved support and upskilling TAs ○ Opportunities to support skills and training development for SEN Caseworkers • Information sharing – ensuring information is shared with stakeholders more effectively and efficiently. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring parents/carers and families are informed of settings and services available • Improved Financial Efficiency – DBV and Safety Valve lessons learned will support future funding guidance. • National EHCP Template – To be introduced by 2025 but may change dependant on Change Programme. Guidance on how to use and complete will also be released. • Change Programme – underpinned by £70m funding package to cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development and coordination of 9 Regional Expertise Partnerships (REPs) – expected to be one in every of the 9 regions. ○ Test and refine key reforms via REPs ○ Develop and spread best practice or partnerships and plans. <p>Accountability across the system key including LAs, Schools and Health. System needs to operate as a system in order to achieve the vision. The acadamisation plan will be key taking into account MATs that are spread across local areas.</p> <p>SE19 Inclusion network group are next meeting on 22nd March. Representatives from group nominated school leaders to engage in the group where discussion around accountability framework can take place and feedback to strategic leads.</p>

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6.	<p>DBV Experience</p> <p>Helen Johns provided an update on the experience of Delivering Better Value (DBV).</p> <p>Key points raised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys circulated to parents, professionals and case workers • Expend has increased 33% • Focus on unmitigated forecasting and actions that are already in place around early interventions • New mitigations and problem solving focus looking at where you are going to see the most impact • Transition points a key focus • Learning from tranche 1 being taken into tranche 2 and therefore, learning from tranche 2 will inform future work • Focus on school age children and pattern of spend rather than early years and Post 16. • Highest level of spend in specialist placements including SEMH and Autism.
7.	<p>EOTAS – extended item as requested by group</p> <p>Group to consider questions to raise in relation to EOTAS e.g., What do we consider to be appropriate EOTAS provision? Ways of approaching this please?</p> <p>Action: Questions relating to EOTAS and further discussion to be moved to future meeting.</p>
8.	<p>AOB or Items for discussion</p> <p>Action: Group encouraged to complete the meeting feedback form as this really helps support the development of the meetings and network; https://forms.gle/2oPd53NRpBQfqpEf7</p>
<p>Future meeting dates: Wednesday 17th May, 12-1:30pm</p>	
<p>Future topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children not attending schools for health reasons • EOTAS <p>Please send any items or questions and queries you would like to discuss with colleagues to Sheelagh Sullivan at sheelagh.sullivan@outlook.com.</p>	

Summary of Actions
<p>Action: SEF reflection and progress to be included in an agenda item at the next meeting. Action: Questions relating to EOTAS and further discussion to be moved to future meeting</p>