

AD EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING

28th April 2023, 10.30am – 12.30pm



Chair: Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth)

In attendance: Marie Denny (Milton Keynes), Kim James (Oxfordshire), Michelle Sancho (W Berks), Michelle Stanley (Kent), Gareth Drawmer (Bucks), Elizabeth Funge (E Sussex), Cheryl Eyre (BFC), Joyti Azad (Brighton & Hove), Neil Hoskinson (Slough), Natalie Smith (Hants / IoW), Sandra Morrison (Surrey).

Apologies: Deb Austin and Jo Lyons (Brighton & Hove), Simon James (Bucks), Christine McInnes (Kent), Liz Mills (Surrey), Clodagh Freeston (Southampton), Hayley Good (Oxfordshire)

ITEM	Actions
Draft notes and matters arising January meeting notes were approved as an accurate record of meeting. - Please note meeting dates for new academic year; invites to follow. - Thanks to Mike Stoneman and Katie Ridgway for their inputs to SESLIP Learning Day. - Yet to hear from Surrey that their Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy and Schools Sustainability Strategy documents are available. Chris to follow-up.	CO CO
1. Reflections on an Ofsted / CQC AP visit Cheryl gave an overview of the 3 week experience in Bracknell Forest. In summary, it was a very demanding process (felt like a full inspection, but the team were at pains to stress it was not) and there was good, positive learning for BFC. BFC were one of 6 LAs to be 'visited' and the review was across the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of AP• Strategic planning of AP• The commissioning of AP (and outcomes / reintegration)• Transitions (incl use of dual registration)• Enablers and barriers• Multi-agency partners and AP. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role of LA in quality assuring unregistered AP is key (and positive feedback in BFC).• Children with medical needs / tutored by LA very much included in scope of visit.• Clear who is responsible for commissioning for individual CYP is important (and communication to key colleagues).• Fed back to inspectors concerns about numerous areas of fuzziness in the statutory powers of relevance to AP. Cheryl was thanked for her helpful summary.	
2. Early years challenges – capacity, sufficiency and issues with wider school system <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marie Denny (MKC) shared an overview of profile and challenges in Milton Keynes drawing from the LA's Forward View report. Whilst the LA's view is that there is broadly sufficient capacity across Milton Keynes, there are certain localities where gaps are starting to emerge and where children with additional needs are hard to place.• The concern for the future is that national policy decisions and cost of living pressures (energy and basic cost inflation) are resulting in it being almost impossible to stimulate new provision. Also there are great pressures on the two maintained nursery schools	

ITEM	Actions
<p>due to budget pressure and recruitment / retention difficulties. These schools serve deprived communities, so would leave significant gaps if they were to close.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Network members echoed the themes in their LA, especially around maintained nursery schools and that the direction is of reduction in childcare / nursery provision, rather than being able to grow the local market. The importance of early years learning, especially of children from disadvantaged families, was stressed too; concerns that this is getting lost from national discussions. For example, nationally there seems to be a view that childminding places will expand to absorb additional demand which has not been the experience in our LAs. <p><u>Action:</u> All members have view that early years sufficiency is at risk in the South-east. CO / MS to raise this with Deb Austin and ask that DCSs flag this nationally and make DfE aware of the pressures.</p>	CO
<p>3. Plans for the joint meeting with DfE South-east and Ofsted</p> <p>Chris outlined the draft programme and proposed scenarios.</p> <p>Change one of the scenarios to focus on the maintained nursery school position. There was some discussion about safeguarding and Ofsted and a view that this is an important topic to thread into the workshop discussions and that Chris should ask Ofsted about attending the September Network meeting for a specific item on safeguarding and schools.</p> <p>Confirmation that the June workshop is a 'plus 1' invite for LAs.</p> <p>Chris to amend programme and liaise with DfE South-east and Ofsted to confirm and confirm attendees.</p> <p>Marie, Christine, Clive and Hayley will develop their respective scenarios.</p>	CO CO MD / HG/ CH / CM
<p>4. Burning issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General points: there has been a notable dip in school attendances today. The combination of strike days and bank holiday have encouraged some parents to take children out of school. DfE is exploring the option of making every child without a named school defined as 'children missing education' and, in this way, make it a statutory data collection requirement of LAs. The deadline for CME and EHE reporting to schools is today and an update will be expected to follow. 	
<p>5. SESLIP items:</p> <p>a. Update from SE19 SEND Strategic Conversation Forum</p> <p>Agreed that the value of the meeting with vary according to the agenda. This week's had a strong health focus. The next Forum on June 14th (midday) will have input from the DfE (Andre Imich) and look at SEND Inspections. Invites will continue to be circulated to all AD Education Network members.</p> <p>b. Co-chair of CME Sub-group</p> <p>Mike requested a member of the Network consider stepping into co-chair the CME Group, following Brian Pope's retirement. Min 3 meeting a year, plus comment on agendas that Chris pulls together and occasional updates for this group and DCS group.</p> <p>Please speak to Mike or Chris if you would consider taking this on.</p>	ALL
<p>Future meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16th June (10.30am - 3.30pm in Broadway House, Tothill Street London.) 29th September; 17th November; 26th January; 15th March. All 10am via MS Teams. 	