

**S.E.19 SEND Strategic Leads Meeting**

**17th May 2023**

**Notes of meeting**

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| **Attendance** | **LA** |
| Julia Katherine (Chair) | Surrey |
| Liz Flaherty  | DfE professional adviser for SEND |
| Alistair Hines | Assistant SEN Service Manager, Hampshire County Council |
| Mark McCurrie | DfE SEND adviser |
| Deborah Smit | SEND Strategic Development and Improvement Manager, Oxfordshire  |
| Jane Seymour | Service Manager SEND, West Berkshire |
| Nina Broderick | Inclusion Service Leader (Milton Keynes) |
| Helen Johns | Head of SEND, West Sussex |
| Jayne Howarth | County Education Manager Hampshire |
| Catherine Clarke | Operations Manager, Oxfordshire |
| Nathen Caine | Head of Education: SEND and Inclusion. East Sussex CC |
| Tammy Marks | Southampton |
| David Griffiths | SEND Manager, RBWM |
| Leanne Day | SEND Case Lead, DfE |
| Hester Collicutt |  |
| Kate Bradley  | Oxfordshire |
| Victoria Courtis  | Milton Keynes |
| Amanda Percy | Post-16 Education, Portsmouth  |
| Ellen Atkinson | SE19 SEND co-ordinator |
| Nick King | SESLIP SEND Consultant |
| Sheelagh Sullivan  | SE19 Regional SEND Network Lead |
| Becky Smith | SE19 Regional SEND Network support |

| **No.** | **Notes** |
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| **1.** | **Welcome and Introductions** Apologies: Rhianedd Hughes, Liz Robinson |
| **2.** | **Minutes of the last meeting****Action: SEF reflection and progress to be included in an agenda item at the next meeting.** *SEF included in DfE item of meeting agenda.***Action: Questions relating to EOTAS and further discussion to be moved to future meeting***EOTAS item included in meeting agenda.* |
| **3.** | **High Needs Funding Group and Commissioning Group (slides attached)**Nick King, SE19 SEND Consultant provided a background summary and overview of High Needs Funding Group and Commissioning Group. High Needs Funding Group;* To agree what areas to focus on and frequency of meetings
* Attendance at groups to be High Needs Funding budget holders to ensure effective progress
* Group will link into and add value to DBV and Safety Valve
* Jamboard created to capture colleagues feedback; <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1EVKCh4G16neuAdsayg97SLsa-3xXW-gZpeAeWy53Dgo/viewer?f=0>

Commissioning Group;* Operational and to be attended by Commissioning leads
* Focus to include refining the National Schools Contract and Quality Assurance
* Jamboard also available to capture colleagues feedback; <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1hszeJKJNvrdGFun-CFn1Z3UXxpDhHYbFqj8qrdsgbBU/viewer?f=0>

Agreed to confirm and set outcomes for the network groups before they commence.**Actions: Colleagues to share their thoughts on High Needs Funding Group and Commissioning Group via Jamboard by 24th May.** |
| **4.** | **Group discussion - sharing of challenges/ideas/best practice Issue: EOTAS**On behalf of Liz Robinson, Sheelagh opened up a discussion in relation to a range of questions on EOTAS;1. How is EOTIS/ EOTAS decided/agreed in LAs?
2. What evidence do you draw on? (thinking  especially about medical evidence for Mental Health needs, which appear to be increasing)
3. How do you ensure the special educational provision is delivered and quality assured?
4. Are there examples of mixed models of provision for EOTIS with some education at home, in school, split sites?
5. How do you review the EHC plans for pupils with an EHC who are home educated? Who carries out this function? What evidence required?

A summary of discussion points;* Colleagues shared their experiences and understanding of the term EOTAS and how this may differ.
* NGO referenced which is causing inconsistencies.
* East Sussex have developed a Section 19 policy statement to include a range of strict positions (attached)
* Quality Assurance of provision is a concern

**Action: Group to share any policies and effective practice in relation to EOTAS to Sheelagh or Becky****Action: Group to continue to share examples of tribunal decisions around EOTAS that were unreasonable as previously requested by DfE (Andre Imich)****Action: EOTAS to be added to future SE19 Operational Group meeting****Action: To consider EOTAS regional guidance and/or principles in the future and review what has been shared at the next meeting**  |
| **5.** | **[Disabled children to benefit from funding for short breaks](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disabled-children-to-benefit-from-funding-for-short-breaks%22%20%5Cl%20%22%3A~%3Atext%3DThe%20short%20breaks%20scheme%20gives%2Cbreak%20from%20their%20caring%20responsibilities.)** Group to review and share any experience of the short breaks scheme.  |
| **6.** | ***Regional Updates***1.DfE Regional Advisor update:* General DfE Updates
* SEF
* Inspection feedback

Mark McCurrie and Liz Flaherty, provided a DfE update on the following;**Ofsted Inspections** * 8 inspections completed, 2 LAs on DBV programme
* 3 underway, Gateshead, London Borough of Greenwich and Rutland
* Feedback from Cornwall and Warrington reports include inconsistency of experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND
* Common themes include strategic and partnership work, national issues incl. shortage of EPs, timeliness of EHCPs, waiting lists are too long and lack of ICT integration between services
* Be clear on the meaning on terminology and use of language in conclusions

**Post Inspection Process** What to expect following an inspection. New information released on how DfE/NHSE will respond following inspection. **SEFs**Ofsted framework for formulating SEFs (attached).Liz and Mark open to reviewing SEFs and encourage colleagues to share for feedback.* SEFs should be a summary documents with short and concise descriptions
* Jointly owned by all leaders, social care, education and health
* Give clear self judgements and how areas to improve will be address over the next 12 months

**EHCP Digital Hubs** LAs with effective practice invited to share with the group experiences of digital EHCP hub/portal.**REPs**Final REP selection underway and sector to be informed in June with confirmation of selected REPs. **Additional Updates – Teacher CPD** Ofsted review into the state of Teach CPD found 30% of teachers felt they needed more CPD in teaching students with SEND. How well do you know your schools training needs/CPD. |
| **7.** | **AOB or Items for discussion****Regional Inspections (slide attached)**Sheelagh shared the outcomes of the inspections that have taken place so far.**Action: Group encouraged to complete the meeting feedback form as this really helps support the development of the meetings and network;** <https://forms.gle/iqifLgsrfQTJQTyy8>  |
| **Future meeting dates:** **Wednesday 5th July, 12-1:30pm** |
| **Future topics:*** **REP – SENAP Improvement Plan**
* **Invite Linda Slim to provide an update on VCU**

Please send any items or questions and queries you would like to discuss with colleagues to Sheelagh Sullivan at sheelagh.sullivan@outlook.com. |

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| **Summary of Actions** |
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