

South-East Sector-led Improvement Partnership

South-East Children Missing Education Group Meeting

21st September 2023

Present: Rosie Gossage and Clare Rafaelli (RBWM), Katy Daly (Bracknell), Gavin Thomas (B&H), Jon Willcocks and Pauline Ellis (Hants), James Fowler (Bucks), Fiona Hostler (Reading), Bryn Roberts (Southampton), Cathy Edwards (Kent), Ian Fraser (M Keynes), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Kelly Lancashire (Surrey), Sal Looker (W Berks), Chris Owen and Daniel Elliott.

Apologies: Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth), Kim James (Oxfordshire), Melissa Perry (W Berks), Anjli Sidhu (Slough), Andrew Parker (W Sussex), Vidy Narayan (E Sussex)

Item	Actions
Welcome and introductions Notes of June meeting and matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes agreed to be an accurate record. Slides from Hants about LGO have been circulated. Communication with Border Force: "The link to border force is a TVP police officer who then passes on our enquiries. All LA's should be able to make this connection." Oxfordshire 	
3. Attendance: supporting schools address severe absence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice sharing: Hampshire – slides to be shared. <p>Severe absence is key focus, informed by reviewing attendance data. Working with good practice hubs of schools in each district, prioritising areas with higher absence such as Gosport. Concerns about increases in numbers referred with medical needs (62% increase) and CME increases, particularly those awaiting EHC needs assessment. Established a phone line to manage attendance referrals.</p> <p>Working with colleagues to support parental capacity as a way to improve attendance, is a theme for 2023-24.</p> <p>As a result some improvement in attendance, but a way to go to return to 2019 levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion: <p>BFC: being based with early help has been positive and joint focus on top 10 schools referring to early help.</p> <p>W Berks: found that 'known to social care' an indicator of risk of severe absence and working with virtual school to address this.</p> <p>Agreement that reminding schools about the basics, particularly correct coding of attendance, continues to be important.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE to anonymise the slides & CO will then circulate to the group 	CO
4. Commissioning and monitoring attendance / CME in AP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A round where LAs offered short overview and areas of practice and challenge. Local practice and involvement: <p>Many are involved in quality assurance and local directories of unregistered APs and monitoring attendance at these as part of reviewing pupils on reduced timetables with schools; reintegration rates are improved by the presence of an 'exit plan from AP' from the start of a placement and dual registered short-term programmes; AP headteacher being at the centre of an inclusion partnership with mainstream leaders has proved highly effective in one LA; charging arrangements to mainstream schools placing into AP feature in many LAs.</p> Key areas of challenge identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reintegration into mainstream when pupils on temporary or part-time AP programmes 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioning not working well: for example, PRU going out to mainstreams for places as well as full-time places commissioned by LA ○ Children with medical needs – increasing numbers & what are arrangements that ensure good education / future reintegration ○ AP Strategy – several LAs reporting that local strategies are starting to be worked on (in the light of the SEND and AP Improvement Plan). <p>Action: to feed these challenges into discussions on AP with the AD Education Network.</p>	Chris
<p>5. Draft new-look CME / EHE benchmark dashboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The core data for the dashboard will from now on be taken from the termly DfE Collect Return. The deadline dates for the EHE/CME return are: 3-11-23, 16-2-24 and 14-6-24. • Children with Medical Needs data should be return at the same time: just in terms of total number; totals by gender; totals by primary-age and secondary-age. Using your LA's core definition of children with medical needs; not the wider definition championed by the Ombudsman. • The lead for your LA should return these data in .csv format please – to Daniel.elliott@bright-hove.gov.uk <p>A reminder will be given with the papers for the November meeting.</p>	All
<p>Dates of future meetings:</p> <p>Nov 9th 10am – with a focus on: exclusions: direction they are heading (RBWM)</p> <p>Jan 16th 10am</p> <p>March 5th 2pm</p>	