

South-East Sector-led Improvement Partnership

South-East Children Missing Education Group Meeting

9th November 2023, 10am - midday

Present: Natalie Smith (Hants; chair), Rosie Gossage and Clare Rafaelli (RBWM), Katy Daly and Oliver May (Bracknell), Gavin Thomas (B&H), Jon Willcocks and Pauline Ellis (Hants), James Fowler (Bucks), Bryn Roberts (Southampton), Cathy Edwards (Kent), Ian Fraser (M Keynes), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Kelly Lancashire (Surrey), Melissa Perry (W Berks), Vidya Narayan (E Sussex), Kim James and Jo Goodey (Oxfordshire), Christine Clarke (Medway), Chris Owen

Apologies: Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth), Fiona Hostler (Reading)

Item	Actions
Welcome and introductions Natalie Smith was welcomed as new co-chair for the group <i>Notes of the September meeting were agreed as accurate.</i> <i>Confirmation that all the following actions had been carried out:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides from Hants about supporting schools with attendance circulated. Update given from the CME Group to discussions about AP at AD Education Network. Reminder about sending COLLECT EHE / CME / medical needs data to Daniel Elliott was circulated this week. All to respond and send any questions to Daniel. 	All
Exclusions and suspension: direction of travel? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and practice sharing from RBWM and Hants. RBWM had concerns from last year about the number of excludees who had SEN, including several with an EHCP. Developed a package of early support mentoring programme that schools are accessing. For Hants exclusions had so far plateau'd partly put down to active preventative work with individual schools and early ID. The number of primary suspensions was high this term and is a current focus for discussion with schools about strategies; including for year 3 and 4s whose entry to school were affected by school disruptions due to covid-19. Many LAs confirming that the direction for exclusions so far this year is higher than last year. Many schools comment back, when challenged, that they have put in place their usual inclusion approaches. However, colleagues expect that current staff shortages are playing a part. Recognition that family support and support for parents are needed for prevention, but there is some variation across the region about the ease of involvement with early help and capacity to offer more than 'standard parenting courses'. Family hubs in BHCC include a focus on suspension / exclusion and are starting to impact. A specific issue of a national shortage of ADHD medication was also raised and several LAs have had discussions with NHS colleagues about this. In summary: many report exclusions are going up or, at best, at the same level as last year. Root causes include: additional pressures schools are under, changes with home life and children's social lives. <p>To be fed back to the AD Education Network meeting.</p>	NS
Response to consultation about draft DfE Home Education guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early impressions on proposed guidance: Neil was thanked for his helpful summary. Significant concerns that the draft for consultation clarifies little and risks raising expectations of parents who EHE whilst offering limited clarity. Surrey has had to deal with a critical incident this summer involving the murder of a child who was EHE. Their view is that there is little or nothing to assist with the 	

<p>challenge of managing safeguarding risk where these are present for some families who home educate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps: a group of members will meet to collaborate about wording of responses to the consultation questions and these will be shared with all members of the group and with ADs. Neil will convene with Gavin, Melissa, James, Kelly, Jo, Christine, and Bryn. Chris to be involved to circulate updates and information. Aim is to meet before the end of term. <p>Note closing date for consultation is 18th January 2024.</p>	<p>Neil</p>
<p>Update and AOB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hants: requested LAs to collaborate in the development of a model SLA for schools / trusts for attendance support. Medway and RBWM to share their SLAs for circulation to the group by Chris. Surrey and BHCC are interested to work with Jon on this. From Southampton: the challenge of procedures for schools dealing with serious peer on peer incidents of violence. RBWM offered to share its child-child violence toolkit. BHCC had an example of a process involving LA, police and YOS, but largely a one-off rather than protocol based. <p>Chris to link up with Bryn about renewed option for sharing files and materials across the CME Group.</p>	<p>CR, CC, CO</p> <p>JW, KL, GT.</p> <p>CR</p> <p>CO / BR</p>
<p>Dates of future meetings:</p> <p><u>Jan 16th 10am</u>: update on EHE Consultation response; update on SLAs for attendance support to schools; Continuing interest in the overlap between CME and AP. Is commissioning of AP a future focus, with invites to AP commissioners from BHCC and E Sussex?</p> <p><u>March 5th 2pm</u></p>	