# Notes and action log Text Description automatically generated with low confidence South East regional Early Help network

Attendees: **Chair** Audrey Johnson (Bracknell Forest), (Apologies from **Grainne Siggins** DCS Bracknell Forest chair)

**Meeting details:** 7 December 10-11.30 via MS teams

**Attendees:**

Celia Lamden (East Sussex), Jo Templeman (Brighton and Hove), Julie Greer (Anna Freud and regional lead on family hubs), Kelli Scott (Wokingham), Rebecca Eligon, (SESLIP Support), Donna Leedham (Bracknell Forest), Karen Coffey (Kent for Carolann James), Katy Wilcox (Portsmouth), Gill Noble (Portsmouth), Amanda Hales-Owen (Portsmouth), Claire Hayes (West Sussex), Becky Surman (Brighton and Hove), Daniel Stavrou (Council for Disabled children), Graham Genoni (Brighter Futures/Reading), Steph Coomber (West Berks), John Foster (data to insight), James Carter (Oxfordshire), Michaela Avery (Bracknell Forest)

Apologies: Gareth Morgan, (Bucks), Rachael Park-Davis (RB Windsor and Maidenhead, Achieving for Children), Sophie Butt (Hampshire), Grainne Siggins, DCS chair, Helen Kilby (Oxfordshire), Hayden Ginns (Portsmouth), Carly Bain (Isle of Wight),

**Item 1: introductions and action log**

Actions were agreed from the last meeting. DL agreed to share Surrey contact as we haven’t had a Surrey rep for some time and have had action to hear from Surrey on their JTAI.

**Action:** DL to share to RE the Surrey EH lead.

**ITEM 2: Sharing practice/themed discussion: Payment by results, Supporting families. How are LAs responding to the targets? How might the region support/advocate to Gov?**

BS reflected it is likely to be difficult for Brighton and Hove to meet targets. BS said she sits on the SE coordinators group for the programme and all are expressing concern. Now that there is a need to meet 3 out of 10 rather than 2 out of 6 criteria that has wiped out a number of families being supported by early help. It feels like trying to get square pegs to fit round holes to meet the DfE requirements.

One of the biggest issues for us all is that that programme technically ends at end of March 2025, but there is a need for a 6 month period to do education checks, and to demonstrate sustained change. Therefore for any families we are working with at the end there won’t be enough time to put them through the regression checks.

BS reflected that for us it is pretty epic the cliff edge. All colleagues on the call agreed.

KC agreed that they don’t have the throughput of the families with that level of intensity required to meet the DfE expectations. It does feel like it defeats the object of a programme dealing with early help, if the people we are supporting are not eligible.

KC said we have a large service and large number of families but it is time consuming looking at those 3 outcomes. Making sure the evidence is there right the way through and that it is sufficient to ensure we can make claims.

GG we are in same situation, so the question is what do we do about it? If there is consensus that all LAs are struggling, at the moment we are all feeding back individually we need to take action together.

BS explained to the group that there is a Supporting People Programme coordinators meeting tomorrow we get joined by somebody from the national team, it is usually Alison Smith. She is very aware of the feeling in the room. BS said her feeling was that they are keen for local authorities to be making representations as they feel stuck in the middle. She reflected that some LAs might not be overly honest in their projections as it may raise red flags, increased scrutiny. There is a tension around that. We are being encouraged to make this representation.

Michaela Avery, in BF we have quite immature data, using EH cases and sprinkling of social care data. We also recognise the impact of the additional 3rd qualifier and the workload it creates. Attendance being lower than 90% is also impacting eligibility. BS and DL agreed.

AHO said in Portsmouth we are in a similar position, as is Southampton. There is a real risk around the workforce. We need to achieve 89% of claims to be able to fund staff. There is a practical risk that people’s jobs will be affected.

AJ suggested following GG that we should raise these issues and risks collectively on behalf of the region, drawing out the potential impact of Early Help.

**Action: Agree to take forward via SESLIP group and GS to flag via ADCS. BS and DL to work with Rebecca to draft content of letter.**

**ITEM 3: Presentation from Council for Disabled Children on new Early Years SEND programme**

DS explained role of Council for Disabled children in both policy development, policy implementation and a practical support offer. The service has been running since beginning of 2017.

One of the roles is to coordinate work in the SEND EY partnership funded by DfE. Shared scope of programme and aims and partners which is focused solely on the LAs which are part of the funded family hub areas. DS said they were keen to work with non-funded LAs as well.

**Action:** DS asked if anyone can get in touch with Council for disabled children via Daniel Stavrou dstavrou@ncb.org.uk if they would like support.

The offer is here;

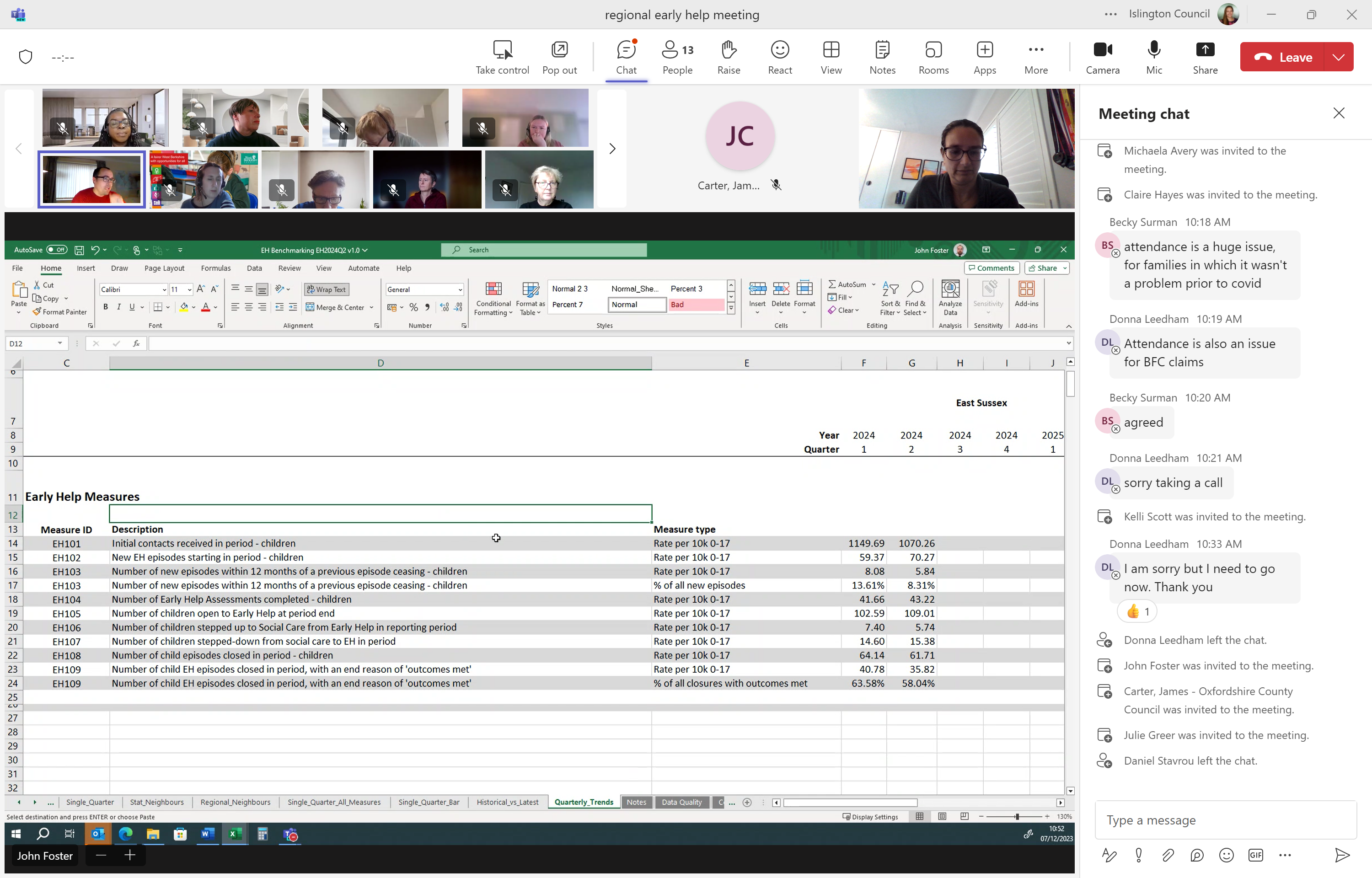


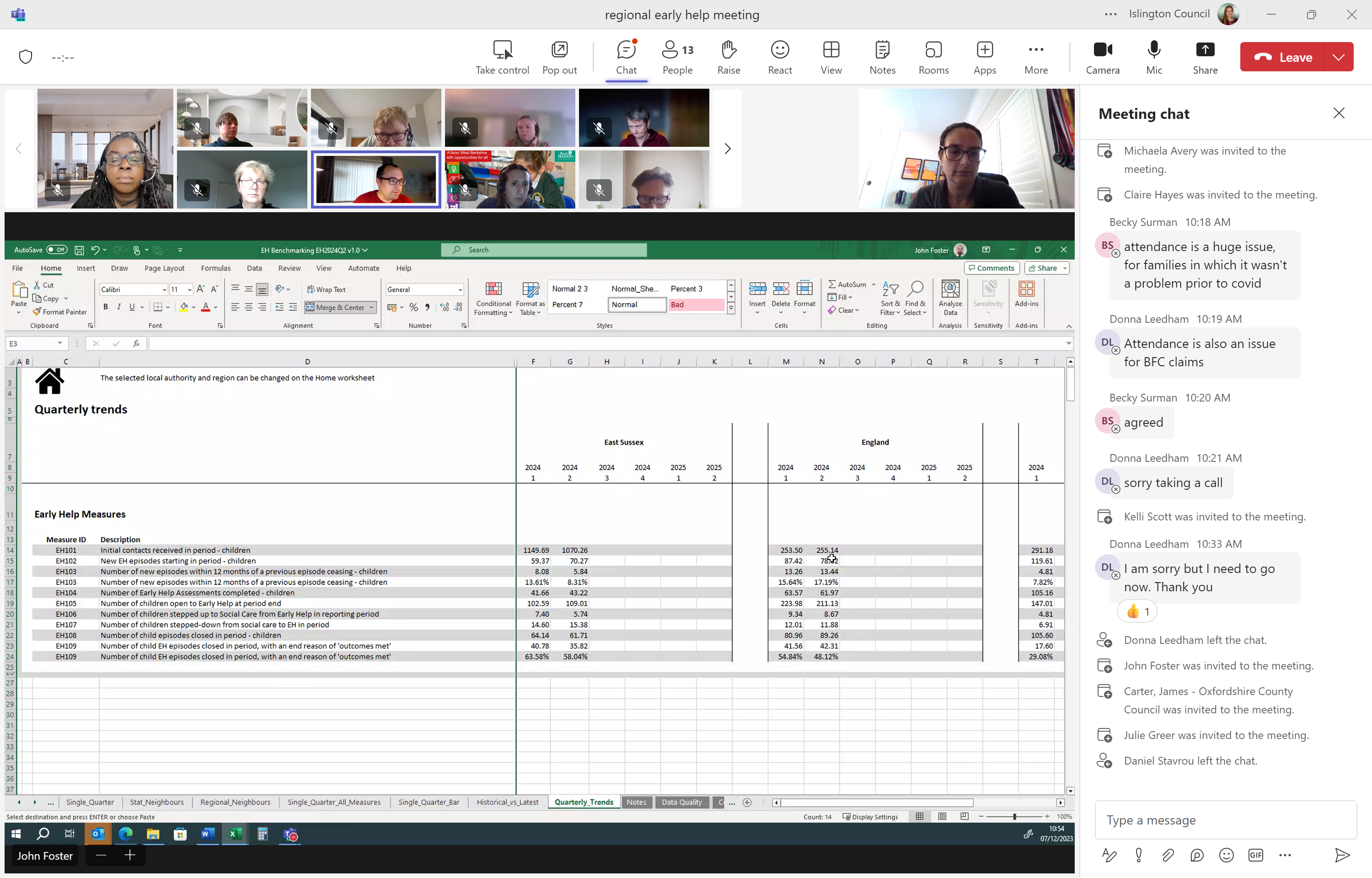
**ITEM 4: Update SESLIP Early Help data standards project**

JF reminded the group of the role of Data to Insight and the work they have been doing to first define a national early help data set and then collect it. JF explained that Q2 data is now being collected, JF shared data across 2 quarters. Data is based on children, can look at your trend data, against other LAs, region, statistical neighbours and national. Nationally nearly half of LAs have provided some sort of response. In the South East Slough, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove have submitted full data, and for other LAs all LAs have submitted some data.

John walked through the benchmarking tool which you can only access if your LA has submitted data. See screenshots below for first two months using an example of East Sussex data.

**Action ; if others want to complete please contact John Foster.** [John.foster@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:John.foster@eastsussex.gov.uk)





**ITEM 5: Regular update from Julie Greer (incl family hubs)**

Julie shared links to key documents and link to evaluation meeting next week looking at the innovation fund

Slides are here:



**ITEM 5: Standing items:**

**Issues for Grainne to escalate to DCS colleagues:** Supporting families

**Ideas or projects for future consideration:** RE reminded group there was capacity in her time and small pot of funding in SESLIP if there were any projects we felt would be helpful for the region. For example last year we developed a shared regional narrative on what we mean by early help which is now published on the SESLIP website.

**Where do family hubs sit and who is eligible:** SC wondered if anyone had that experience of having family hubs in their organisation outside of children/families, as in their LA it is in education rather than social care. AJ said a lot of the funding is geared to under 5s/ KC said a lot of indicators on early years and perinatal but can’t get family into family hub in West Berks unless they have a 0-5. GG said it is unusual in my experience to sit in education, for everyone else they sit in children’s or in an integrated service (Kent).

**Items for next meeting:** DB- interested in meeting PBR on Supporting families. JT agreed everyone is struggling with numbers on phase 3. We are concerned about not hitting target. Getting harder to meet targets.

Future meeting dates:

* To be scheduled in March, June, September and December 2024

**Action log:** This action log was updated on December 14 2023. Shaded actions are closed or complete

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|  | **Action** | **Responsible** | **Date issued** | **Status** |
| **36** | Contact Dan Council for disabled children via Daniel Stavrou dstavrou@ncb.org.uk if you would like to access the support presented at the regional meeting (free for Family Hub funded LAs) | All | Dec 2023 | complete |
| 35 | Only Brighton and Hove, Slough and East Sussex have submitted full data for the EH data benchmarking. If your LA wants to submit and benefit from full benchmarking please contact John Foster. [John.foster@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:John.foster@eastsussex.gov.uk) | All | Dec 2023 | Open |
| 34 | AJ to brief GS on escalation and provide feedback to group | AJ/GS | Dec 2023 | Open |
| 33 | DL and BS to work with RE to draft escalation letter regarding supporting families | DL BS RE | Dec 2023 | complete |
| 32 | DL to share contact details of Surrey EH lead (Adam Thomas) | DL | Dec 2023 | Complete |
| **31** | Themed discussion on Payment by results for supporting families at next meeting | All | Sept 2023 | closed |
| **30** | John to circulate list of LAs who haven’t submitted data to EH benchmarking | JF | Sept 2023 | closed |
| **2**9 | Refresh our understanding of timetable for stable homes built on love especially EH and CIN service implications , GS to update | GS | Sept 2023 | Open |
| **28** | CB to circulate description of differently qualified workers in Hampshire and present at next meeting (Carly Bains) (CB sends apologies so deferred to March 2024) | CB | Sept 2023 | closed |
| **27** | DL/AJ to share JD for new role in Bracknell Forest Family Support advisor coordinator that works with schools to build capacity. (Donna and Audrey) | DL/AJ | Sept 2023 | closed |
| **26** | Future item on early help and family hub strategies | RE | June 2023 | Complete |
| **25** | CL to circulate document from E Sussex (although not used anymore) on % time spent on various tasks | CL | June 2023 | Closed |
| **24** | Future item from Surrey on EH JTAI (Adam Thomas) | RE | June 2023 | Open |
| **23** | EH benchmarking to be circulated with Hants data included | RE | June 2023 | Complete |
| **22** | RE to benchmark waiting list and caseloads. | RE | Dec 2022 | Complete |
| **21** | RE to develop case studies of EH workers from across the region to explain the journey and range of experience that can lead to a career in EH | RE | Dec 2022 | closed |
| **20** | RE and GS to meet and agree how to publish. RE to make changes required to the text and get a designed up version produced for next meeting | RE/GS | Dec 2022 | Complete |
| **19** | JF to set up separate meeting with Amanda Hales Owen to discuss data to insight EH project amanda.halesowen@solent.nhs.uk | JF | Dec 2022 | complete |
| **18** | All to let JF know if they want to be added to the EH data project mailing list | All | May 2022 | Complete |
| **17** | All to contact JG or CB if you want to be on Family Hub mailing list, receive or volunteer to write blogs, receive updates from workshops, research etc. | All | May 2022 | Complete |
| **16** | Future discussion on cost of living, Care review (EH and CIN being brought together), EH being required to support CAMHS cases due to long waiting lists | RE | May 2022 | Complete |
| **15** | Jo Templeman, Carl Burton, Stuart (Kent), Vicky Rhodes, Simon Dear (IOW) to get together to discuss narrative (and if possible data/finance) to explain business case for early help | RE to convene | May 2022 | Complete |
| **14** | All to provide feedback to CB and JG on how best to engage your LA around family hubs | All | Mar2022 | Complete |
| **13** | All contact Georgie to arrange user research interviews, and John on ideas for project scope. | All | Mar 2022 | Complete |
| **12** | RE to share raw responses from EH mapping with data to insight team | RE | Mar 2022 | Complete |
| **11** | KS to feedback on multi-agency (referral?) process at future meeting (Wokingham) | KS | Mar 2022 | Did not happen |
| **10** | Rachael (RPD)(achieving for children) to circulate EH strategy and partnership advisory board terms of reference | RPD | Mar 2022 | Complete |
| **9** | RE to map caseloads (combined with 22) | RE | Mar 2022 | Combined |
| **8** | RE to amend terms of reference naming SC as vice chair and upload to SESLIP website. RE to diarise ToR for annual review | RE | Nov 2021 | Closed |
| **7** | Data to insight to present quarterly to this group on progress of data accelerator | AL | Nov 2021 | Ongoing |
| **6** | JG to present quarterly to this group on progress of regional family hubs work | CB | Nov 2021 | Ongoing |
| **5** | RE to send benchmarking out to all 19 LAs and to summarise findings as item on next agenda | RE | Nov 2021 | Closed |
| **4** | All to contact CB on regional family hub offer of support | All | Nov 2021 | Closed |
| **3** | KP to share report on the impact of bringing together health and EH with Rebecca to circulate to the group | KP | Nov 2021 | Did not happen |
| **2** | AL to ensure learning from supporting families/troubled families influences the EH data accelerator | AL | Nov 2021 | Closed |
| **1** | Refresher data demonstration for the early help network at a future 2022 meeting | AL | Nov 2021 | Closed |