

June 2023 Notes and action log



South East regional Kinship network

Chair Dr Mac Heath, DCS Milton Keynes

Meeting details: June 26 2023, 3.30-5pm via MS teams

Item 1: Introductions: MH welcomed the group to the first meeting of this new SESLIP network. He confirmed the increasing importance of kinship to the region and the establishment of this group, as separate from the ASGLB as a clear signal of intent and commitment to growing our practice and creating space for senior leaders in Kinship across the South East.

MH confirmed that it was agreed that there was a need for a dedicated space to discuss kinship outside of adoption and fostering (which both have their own dedicated regional SESLIP groups).

Action: All to confirm to RE the lead representative/s for your LA going forward.

Item 2: benchmarking: RE presented the benchmarking and thanked all the LAs for completing. West Berks, AfC and West Sussex apologised that their returns had not been received in time for the meeting.

Discussion held on caseloads: Some LA representatives reflected that the outliers were not a reflection of deliberate practice, but rather a reflection of vacancies. It was felt that 15-20 felt a reasonable regional average.

Discussion held on best practice: LAs welcomed the opportunity through this regional group to share good practice. West Sussex reflected on their Kinship charter and agreed to circulate to the region.

Discussion held on ASF: LAs noted the wide variation in practice with West Sussex, Brighton and Hove, Surrey and E. Sussex clear outliers in terms of positive practice and higher amounts of ASF coming into their LAs for SG. Hampshire and Milton Keynes also have relatively high proportions compared with other LAs.

Discussion held on structures: West Berks is developing a pod model for kinship, Kent is developing a dedicated team as is Bucks. Other LAs have dedicated workers whilst some LAs manage joint kinship and fostering teams with mixed caseloads.

Action: Focused future discussion on ASF. Is there appetite to fund a regional ASF SG champion/support worker to have a practical role at increasing ASF coming into the region for SGOs?

Action: RE to incorporate further data from LAs and to recirculate benchmarking ahead of next meeting

Action; West Sussex (Bridget McDermott) to send kinship charter to RE to circulate to rest of group

Action: detailed discussion at next meeting on learning from different approaches to resourcing kinship.

Item 3: Terms of reference Terms of reference were agreed. Group to meet quarterly going forward. Lucy Peake and/or another rep from Kinship will be the deputy chair. Agreed standing items: Issues for chair to escalate to DCS colleagues, agree themed discussion for next meeting.

Action: terms of reference agreed and to be published on SESLIP website

Item 4: Standing items: No issues for escalation.

2-3.30pm

Action log: This action log was updated on 12 Nov 2023. Shaded actions are closed or complete

	Action	Responsible	Date issued	Status
6	terms of reference agreed and to be published on SESLIP website	RE	June 2023	Complete
5	detailed discussion at next meeting on learning from different approaches to resourcing kinship.	RE	June 2023	Complete
4	West Sussex (Bridget McDermott) to send kinship charter to RE to circulate to rest of group	RE	June 2023	Complete
3	RE to incorporate further data from LAs and to recirculate benchmarking ahead of next meeting	RE	June 2023	Complete
2	Focused future discussion on ASF. Is there appetite to fund a regional ASF SG champion/support worker to have a practical role at increasing ASF coming into the region for SGOs?	RE	June 2023	Complete
1	All to confirm to RE the lead representative/s for your LA going forward.	RE	June 2023	complete

Future meeting 2024 dates:

- 16 Nov 2.30-4pm (focused discussion resourcing kinship teams)
- 26 February 2-3.30pm (focused discussion ASF)
- 16 May 2-3.30pm
- 16 July 2-3.30pm