

## SESLIP AD Education Network Update:

April 12<sup>th</sup> 2024

### From SESLIP:

- As we ready for the start of the new term, here's an overview of key news and reports and materials from the DfE that have been published over the school break.
- **South East Region SEND Workforce Survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GKF9VLB> . The deadline for completing the SESLIP SEND survey has been extended to **17.00 on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**. Thanks to those who have already returned the survey.
- The purpose of the survey is to help us develop a better understanding and evidence base in relation to the workforces challenges we are experiencing across the South-east. The survey will also help us identify the best ways we can collaborate with member LAs and deploy regional resources to address these difficulties. If you have any further questions about the survey, please contact: [Mark@markevansconsulting.co.uk](mailto:Mark@markevansconsulting.co.uk) .

### In Today's Update:

- DfE: Ofsted's updated complaints and inspection pause policies, pupil premium allocations - details delayed until May24, fewer schools approved for funding for repairs, Schools Adjudicator's report raises problem of child with EHCP being refused a place, updated free school meals guidance, HNFB capital allocations to 2025, projects funded from the Condition Improvement Fund, staff wellbeing resources for schools, guide to using DfE data to monitor school attendance, call for evidence in advance of *Keeping children safe in education 2025*, PE and school sports case studies.
- National reports: Report into in-year moves highlights vulnerability of these young people, HoC Women & Equalities Committee inquiry is critical of RSE in schools, estimated school budgets with school populations set to fall.
- Research: IFS research into Sure Start captures evidence of many positive medium term impacts, how can what we measure help us to better achieve educational equity?
- News: Podcast series from EEF - recommended one about supporting attendance, urgent need for Ofsted reform: Ruth Perry's sister, Amanda Spielman on her work leading Ofsted, former secondary HT reflections on managing behaviour in a challenging school, analysis shows the erosion of pay for senior teachers, better protections for schools from protests called for, cost of residential care placements up by nearly 75% over five years.

#### 1. DfE:

- Ofsted publishes its revised complaints policy and an updated pausing school inspections policy. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fairness-and-transparency-central-to-ofsteds-updated-complaints-and-pausing-policies>
- Updated pupil premium guidance and conditions of grant for 2024-25. Actual school allocations for schools have been delayed to May 2024 due data hiccups. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2024-to-2025>
- The list of schools whose bids for funding for repairs have been approved by the DfE for the current year's funding. Fewer approvals than last year (down 16%) and it would appear schools offering to pay between 15 - 30% of the costs were more likely to receive approval (this is the case for nearly half). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/condition-improvement-fund-2024-to-2025-outcome>
- The annual report of the Schools Adjudicator draws attention to a small but increasing number of schools (mostly secondary presently) that are refusing to be named on a child's EHCP. The report reflects the pressures on special school places across the country as well and concerns about the length of time it can take to resolve a "direction to place" case.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65fc23dd65ca2f001b7da75b/OSA\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65fc23dd65ca2f001b7da75b/OSA_Annual_Report_2023.pdf)

- Updated guidance for schools and LAs about the provision of free school meals, partly following judicial review about provision for children who are EOTAS. Schools are reminded of their duty to make reasonable adjustments and this can include individual arrangements for some pupils, which can include food vouchers if the school meals offer cannot satisfy the requirements for a child with SEND. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools-and-local-authorities>
- Guidance and information about capital allocations for all LAs to support meeting demand for places for pupils with EHCPs and those place in AP, primarily in state provision, but NMSSs are within scope as well. A grant assurance data return with information about the types of projects to be funded will be expected by the end of Sept. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-provision-capital-allocations>
- Breakdown of capital projects in schools to be supported from the Condition Improvements Fund during 2024-25. Includes schools in 14 of the LAs in the South-east. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/condition-improvement-fund-2024-to-2025-outcome>
- A dedicated webpage of free resources to support schools to improve staff wellbeing and reduce workload pressures. <https://improve-workload-and-wellbeing-for-school-staff.education.gov.uk/>
- User guide for schools to use the DfE generated attendance data. Attendance data is monitored for the school with breakdowns by pupil, year group, SEN, sex, PA / SA, FSM and in a league table position within the LA area and nationally. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitor-your-school-attendance-user-guide/monitor-your-school-attendance-user-guide>
- A 12-week call for evidence from schools, colleges, and other professionals on safeguarding practice development and direction, in advance of *Keeping children safe in education 2025*. Call for evidence is open until 20th May. <https://consult.education.gov.uk/safeguarding-strategy-systemic-improvement-team/safeguarding-children-in-schools-and-colleges/>
- Guidance and case studies about implementing two hours a week of PE and school sports in schools. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pe-and-sports-in-schools> .

## **2. Reports:**

- Using 2018-19 data (pre-pandemic) the report analyses unexplained and in-year school moves for secondary age students. It finds about 1% of students are involved, but that the range, by LA, is from 0.4% to 2.5% in the year. It also reviews approaches adopted by LAs, findings include that 1 in 5 LAs do not have a managed moves protocol and that many provide limited or no oversight of these processes. <https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/unexplained-school-transfers-and-managed-moves-local-protocols-practice-and-outcomes-for-pupils/>
- The inquiry into rising numbers of sexual infections by the Commons Women and Equalities Committee is critical of RSE in schools. Stating that the rates of gonorrhoea in particular have nearly doubled among young people since 2021 and this is also linked to reductions in dedicated young people's services. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5804/cmselect/cmwomeq/463/report.html>
- Modelling future school budgets on the basis of school population projections. The analysis illustrates the reductions in school budgets that can be expected to follow as a result of these falling rolls and discussed some of the budget challenges schools could face by 2030. <https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/school-funding-model-effect-of-falling-rolls/>

## **3. Research:**

- Study analysing the impacts of the Sure Start programme from 1999 to 2010. Impact measure shows an overall positive effect on performance at GCSE. However the bulk of the positive effect on poor and lower income families was as a result of the Sure Start Local Programmes (1999 - 2003) where there was greater investment in outreach and parenting support. There is also robust evidence of more effective early identification of SEND combined with proportionally fewer children with SEND going on to escalate to needing an EHC plan. <https://ifs.org.uk/publications/short-and-medium-term-impacts-sure-start-educational-outcomes>
- Discussion paper about educational equity and how data can and should assist practitioners and decision-makers to work towards more equitable systems. Key points include:
  - looking beyond averages to build a fuller picture of young people's lives
  - measure opportunities as well as achievements
  - address barriers to equity that lie outside of the education system.<https://cambunipress.prod.acquia-sites.com/sites/default/files/media/documents/Mapping%20the%20Way%20to%20Educational%20Equity.pdf>

#### **4. News:**

- Informative podcast series from the Education Endowment Foundation. This episode has a focus on supporting school attendance: <https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-r54j8-15ba5dd> . Other recent episodes include defining disadvantage, SEN in mainstream and metacognition.
- Prof Julia Waters talks to the NEU Conference about her sister's untimely death and calls for campaigning to reform Ofsted before there is another tragedy. She criticises the lack of ambition shown in reforms announced so far by Ofsted and questions why they are yet to commission the promised independent review of its handling of the inspection. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/perrys-sister-tells-neu-lets-reform-not-abolish-ofsted/> (*please note Christine Gilbert [former HMCI] has now been appointed to lead Ofsted's review*).
- Account of former HMCI Amanda Spielman's interview on the Difficult Women podcast. Controversially she discusses Ofsted's response following the inspection of Caversham Primary (and death by suicide of Ruth Perry) and the importance of Ofsted being able to inspect schools trusts. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/spielman-suggests-ofsted-did-not-get-ruth-perry-inspection-wrong/>
- Honest, self-critical and insightful account from a former secondary headteacher of a challenging school. He describes successes and failings about the culture of behaviour during his time as leader. His reflections five years on from leaving this role are well worth a read. <https://teacherhead.com/2024/04/02/a-behaviour-perspective/>
- Analysis of public sector pay highlights the extent that key roles have been subject to real terms pay cuts and that the gap between new entrants to the profession and experienced staff has shrunk. Average teacher pay is 9% lower than in 2010 and this reduction has disproportionately affected higher bands. <https://ifs.org.uk/publications/recent-trends-public-sector-pay>
- The national review of social cohesion includes certain recommendations for education to reduce the intimidation of school staff. These include legislation for 150m buffer zones from protests around schools and a national cohesion unit in the DfE to ensure more robust guidance for schools and support when they are the focal point for protests from interest groups. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/the-khan-social-cohesion-review-7-things-schools-need-to-know/>
- The cost of to LAs of children's residential care placements has escalated by 72% in only the past 5 years. The average cost per placement is twice as high in northern England as compared to the South-east. Much of the escalation is driven by shortage of places and private equity owners increasing charges <https://www.lgcplus.com/services/children/revealed-spiralling-cost-of-childrens-homes-19-03-2024/>

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