

**SE19 SEND Strategic Leads Meeting**

**[Wednesday 13th March & 12pm-1:30pm]**

**Notes of meeting**

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| **Attendance** | **LA** |
| Sheelagh Sullivan | SE19 Network Lead |
| Gary Nixon | Slough |
| Deborah Smit  | Oxfordshire |
| Ellen Atkinson  | NDTi |
| Victoria Courtis | Milton Keynes |
| Rhianedd Hughes  | Brighton-Hove |
| Nathan Caine | East Sussex |
| Chris Baird | SE19  |
| David Griffiths | Achieving for Children  |
| Nick King | SE19 Consultant  |
| Sally Furness | Wokingham |
| Jamie Conran  | Wokingham |
| Jane Seymour  | West Berkshire |
| Emma Steele | Hants |
| Samantha Caley | Slough |
| Brynmor Smart  | Slough |
| Karen Spencer  | West Sussex |
| Claire Prince  | West Sussex |
| Dorothy Hadleigh | Bracknell Forsst |
| Malcolm Reeve | Whole School |
| Lauren Stone | SDSA |

| **No.** | **Notes** |
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| 1. **Welcome and Introductions**
 | Welcomes and introductions were held. |
| 1. **Notes of last meeting**
 | * Notes from last meeting are a true record of last meeting.
* No updates on staffing structures were provided since the last meeting – was proposed that colleagues send this to Lauren for discussion at next meeting.
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| 1. **Improving inclusive Practice across SE19 – Whole School SEND plans for the year ahead**
 | * Whole school colleague provided insight into the Whole School SEND Programme and its resources.
* Information shared about online CPD unites, professional development groups, networking opportunities, and peer mentoring available through Whole School SEND.
* Inclusive practices and leadership in schools to support children with SEND was emphasised.
* SEND Review Framework and Send in a Nutshell guide to support effective leadership and governance.
* Consideration of forming a working group to focus on improving inclusive practices across the region.
* Whole school also invited members to join regional meetings on Community Join Up for SEND to foster collaboration and share best practices.
* Attendees were encouraged to explore the resources available through Whole School SEND and consider their applicability in their respective roles.
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| 1. **Update – Regional SEND funding Survey**
 | * East Sussex provided insight into the varying levels of decision-making regarding spending across different LA’s, with common challenges highlighted.
* East Sussex discussed the responses to the questionnaire, indicating a need for further engagement and analysis.
* Attendees expressed interest in understanding funding challenges and sharing best practice.
* Clarifications were sought out regarding the timeline for completing the questionnaire and expectation for response, which is due Friday 5th April.
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| 1. **DfE Funding Programmes (DBV/ SV)**
 | * SE19 consultant highlighted various DfE support programmes available, emphasising the importance of engaging with VCU regional leads to explore support options.
* Colleagues expressed interest in learning from LA’s experiences with inspections and accessing support programmes.
* Milton Keynes colleague and West Berkshire colleauge to present post-inspection experiences at next meeting.
* Considerations of a joint meeting for LA’s involved in DBV to share learnings.
* SE19 consultant provided insight to various DfE support programmes, offering clarification based on his role.
* **Safety Valve:**
* *Designed to support LA with significant deficits in the delivery of SEND services*.
* *LS’ receive financial support to reduce historic deficits and quarterly progress monitoring by the DfE*
* *Additional support may be provided based on progress and identified challenges.*
* **Delivering Better value:**
* *Targeted at LA with less severe deficits, offering diagnostic assessments and grant funding for deficit reduction initiatives.*
* *Monitoring conducted by DfE funding units and commissioned advisors.*
* **Partners in Practice:**
* *Commissioned by the DfE to provide peer support across social care and SEND.*
* *Limited access based on commissioning by the DfE, accessed through discussions with VCU regional leads.*
* **Role of VCU Advisors:**
* *Clear distinction between commissioned SEND advisers and the DfE*
* *Feedback received on the effectiveness of regional adviser arrangements, with ongoing support available through VCU leads.*
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| 1. **Regional LA update and identification of priorities for future meetings**
 | * Network lead asked colleagues asked for thoughts on future topics going forward.
* Colleagues expressed interest understanding how regional advisers could support their inclusive practice initiatives.
* Further discussion needed on the forward plan for upcoming meetings, focusing on meeting content and objectives.

Actions:* West Berkshire and Milton Keynes colleagues to present post-inspection experiences at the next meeting
* Colleagues encouraged to share their experiences with support groups via email for discussion at future meetings.
* Further discussion on the forward planning for upcoming meetings.
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| 1. **Regional update – Courageous Conversations – Call for information/commitment**
 | * SE19 consultant provided an overview of Courageous Conversations, inviting interested LA’s to participate.
* Emphasis on the importance of defining topics relevant to each LA.
* It was clarified that the initiative is meant to be supportive and owned by the area, with no requirement for reporting to higher authorities.
* Colleague emphasised the strength-based approach and the opportunity to choose topics relevant to their local areas.
* Colleagues were encouraged to directly contact SE19 consultant for booking slots and forming teams for participation.
* Attendees requested an overview of involvement expectations, prompting colleague to provide additional details and offer to circulate a slide deck for further information.

Action:Attendees to contact colleague directly: bchrisbaird@gmail.com to express interest in Courageous Conversations and book slots for participation.  |
| 1. **Next meeting date**
 | Wednesday 15th May 2024 |
| **Future topics:**Please send any items or questions and queries you would like to discuss with colleagues to Sheelagh Sullivan at sheelagh.sullivan@outlook.com. |