TERMS OF REFERENCE

**SOUTHEAST LEAD MEMBER NETWORK**

The SESLIP Programme Board agreed the development of a workstream to support the learning and development of lead members as part of the SESLIP Improvement Plan.

We recognise the wealth of experience, enthusiasm and talent of our lead members, and, as with our Directors of Children’s Services, the support of colleagues, and a safe environment to share ideas and learn from each other.

The Lead Member network feeds into LGA national policy developments and assists in providing feedback and lobbying.

1 This network comprises Lead Members for Children’s Services across the southeast region and those members who may hold roles such as lead for education or SEND. It provides an opportunity for in depth expert workshops, in addition to discussion around key issues in children’s services and the sharing of good practice.

2 The meetings are held several times per year. There are two sessions per year in person in London on a Friday morning, with the Lead member network meeting held from 10am- 12 noon prior to a joint meeting with the Directors of Children’s Services for the region. The meetings are in the diary through to December 2025. Attendance in person is encouraged.

3 The meeting is chaired by a Lead Member which is currently Cllr Jacquie Russell. There is a Vice Chair role which provides deputising capacity. This is currently held by Cllr Sue Chandler.

4 To ensure continuity in role, the position of Chair is held for a two-year period.

5 Agendas and papers are sent out in advance of the meeting. A forward programme for the year is held which is based upon suggestions from members of the network. A succinct record of the meeting is taken. In addition, papers and workshop slides are held on the SESLIP Lead member network page.

6 A series of expert workshops are held on key themes and ensure an in-depth exploration of a key area of focus with guest speakers with topics chosen by the network reflecting the balance of issues across children’s services.

7 It is suggested that these terms of reference are reviewed on an annual basis.

September 2024