

## South-East Sector-led Improvement Partnership South-East Children Missing Education Group Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Record of meeting

<u>Present:</u> Natalie Smith (Hants), Ming Zhang & Carole Vernon (Wokingham), Jon Willcocks, Pauline Martin Ellis (Hants), James Fowler (Bucks), Colin Mayo & Cathy Shaw (M Keynes), Neil Stevenson (Portsmouth), Katy Daly (Bracknell), Cathy Edwards (Kent), Melissa Perry (W Berks), Annette Taylor (RBWM), Nicky Dziewulska-Miles (Reading), Rachel Williams (IoW), Mark Keiller (Surrey), Chris Owen.

<u>Apologies:</u> Gavin Thomas (BHCC), Vidyu Narayan (ESCC), Fiona Hostler (Reading), Andrew Parker (W Sussex), Clare Raffaelli (RBWM), Simon Smith (Kent),

Item	Actions
Welcome and introductions	
1. Notes of March meeting and matters arising	
<ul> <li>Notes of the March meeting were reviewed and agreed as accurate.</li> <li>Feedback has been received from ADCS following a meeting with the LG Ombudsman. The brief comments from the LGO was that their actions are only seeking to uphold the law. Disappointment was expressed. Katy (BFC) highlighted a meeting with DfE and LGO representatives she had attended recently where are more nuanced stance was communicated, both with some allowance for some flexibility of timing around the 15 days when designed to facilitate attendance at the home school. Mention was made about the LGO having interest in discussing their work and the challenges with LAs. CO will circulate the slides and make contact with Evan Lerwill from the LGO on behalf of this group.</li> <li>Chris is yet to hear back from the DCO network about a possible date for a joint meeting.</li> </ul>	Chris
2. CME Staffing Profiles  Chris talked through a draft summary based on responses from reps. He emphasised that caution must be exercised with any comparisons since there are likely to be detailed differences between the scope of teams in different LAs.  Discussion: a request to include a profile for each LA of the breakdown of schools between maintained, voluntary-aided and academies was suggested. Agreed to hold this (partly because of the work involved to access the information from CME Group members). Two members asked to recheck the numbers that they had submitted since the profile presented did not fit with their view of staffing levels. Chris to follow-up with these LAs before sharing an updated draft with the AD Education Network.	Chris
<ul> <li>3. Revisit CME Group Terms of Reference Overdue to review current TofR (which date from Feb 2020); more than just to recognised the change in co-chairs. Agree that there are a number of aspects from 'purpose' where the language needs updating and to add the s19 and mental health theme. Regarding the scope, it was agreed that the DfE definition of CME should be stated. Rather the group discussed a desire to change the group's name to better reflect the focus of our work. Options: <ul> <li>Children Missing Education Group</li> <li>Access to Education Group</li> <li>Removing Barriers to Education Group</li> <li>Children not in School and Access to Education Group</li> </ul> NS will update the AD Education Network about the changes. Chris to set up a form of voting over the options, with the aim to reach a final decision at the June meeting.</li> </ul>	Natalie Chris



and the second s	rement Flogramme
4. S19 packages / practice sharing / case studies	
Agreement across the group to move ahead with the chance to work together to share	
practice and summarise with case studies and sharing materials. CO offers to support sub-	
groups with finding a time to meet and a way to share practice between meetings and he will	
draft short case studies where identified by sub-group members.	
Rather than 4 themes it was agreed to compress into two:	
A) Review / update to LA section 19 policy, and decision-making and procedures for	
section 19 requests, including mental health needs.	
B) Working with schools: LA arrangement of suitable education: strategies to promote	
return to school / funding arrangements / support capacity building in schools to	
reduce demands.	
For group A: Milton Keynes, Bucks, Surrey, W Berks, Portsmouth, Kent, IoW.	
For group B: Reading, IoW, Surrey, Hants and Wokingham.	
Chris will check with other members of the CME Group whether they wish to join one of	
these groups.	
And, Chris will link with contacts about a meeting on Teams before the next CME Group	Chris
meeting and to test setting up groups on MS Teams (his hosted account) for communication	
to happen between meetings.	
5. AOB	
Chris reminded new members of the CME Group's WhatsApp chat that can be used	
between meetings to raise questions and concerns. Inform him of a mobile number that	
has a WhatsApp account and he can add you to the chat group.	All
Dates of future meetings:	
12 <sup>th</sup> June 10am; 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept 10am.	
12 36116 136111, 17 36Pt 1361111	