



SESLIP Regional Improvement Plan 2025-26, including RIIA Grant Delivery Plan 2025-26

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Introduction

1. The purpose of this regional improvement plan is to identify action that will assist all the local authorities in the South East to deliver effective services which improve outcomes for children and young people.
2. The plan recognises that all children's services have strengths which can help inspire improvement in others; it recognises that they are all capable of further improvement. It aims to discourage the conclusion that only poor or weak services need improvement help; instead, it celebrates honest self-evaluation and constant improvement as antidotes to complacency.
3. The main features of the plan are:
 - a non-stigmatising approach to improvement
 - support for innovation and new approaches to service delivery challenges
 - development of the skills of staff, managers, corporate and political leaders
 - increased sharing of ideas, insight, understanding and solutions.

DfE RIIA Grant

4. The core activities of the programme have been enhanced following the announcement of a substantial DfE grant.

Table 1: DfE Grant to SESLIP in 2024-25 and 2025-26 for CSC and SEND

| SESLIP | Data | Diagnostic | Universal work | Targeted support | TOTAL 2024-25 |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| CSC 2024-25 | 80,000 | 60,800 | 27,200 | 94,000 | 262,000 |
| SEND 2024-25 | - | - | 143,256 | - | 143,256 |
| Total 2024-25 | 80,000 | 60,800 | 170,456 | 94,000 | 405,256 |
| SESLIP | Data | Diagnostic | Universal work | Targeted support | TOTAL 2025-26 |
| CSC 2025-26 | 80,000 | 60,800 | 200,000 | 90,121 | 430,921 |
| SEND 2025-26 | 160,000 | 76,000 | 600,000 | 370,200 | 1,206,200 |
| Total 2025-26 | 240,000 | 136,800 | 800,000 | 460,321 | 1,637,121 |

5. The DfE grant is subject to a "[Statement of Requirements](#)" in respect of CSC and SEND Grant for 2025-26. Amongst other things it:



- Requires the separation of CSC and SEND purposes.
 - Describes four themes of: data, diagnostics, universal and targeted work.
 - Offers support for the implementation of the CSC National Framework
 - Describes the enablers and outcomes set out in the CSC National Framework
 - Focuses on how LAs respond to extra-familial harms, child sexual abuse and domestic abuse.
 - Refers to the CSC Dashboard
 - Refers to the good practice guides published by Foundations (What Works Centre for Children and Families)
 - Describes the five enablers of good SEND practice published by What Works in SEND
 - Refers to the Delivering Better Value toolkit.
 - Focuses on LAs preparing to implement forthcoming SEND reforms.
6. In responding to this document, we have prepared Appendix 1 (an analysis of the CSC dashboard and the relative performance of the south east and its LAs) and Appendix 2 (an analysis of the plan's proposed projects against the CSC and SEND outcomes and enablers)
 7. This plan does not include any specific response to the requirement to focus on extra-familial harms, child sexual abuse and domestic abuse. Our analysis of the CSC dashboard shows the regional performance in these areas is not under stress when compared to other regions; further practitioners have not reported this as a priority through our communities of practice, nor has it been consistently identified as a specific priority following our DCS self-assessment and peer challenge process.
 8. The plan is also informed by the output of the 2024-25 round of DCS self-assessments and peer challenges. Appendix 3 is a summary of the main themes that emerged from the 6 challenge events.
 9. We acknowledge, however, that there is always room for improvement and innovation and will ask our relevant communities of practice to review practice and improvement opportunities in these service delivery areas.
 10. Appendix 4 reproduces the RIIA grant application format and appendix 5 is a full SESLIP budget for 2025-26, including RIIA grant.

Objectives of this plan

11. We will identify ways in which local authorities can support each other to improve and take collective action to address systemic issues within the region.
12. We will recognise both positive and negative variance in performance and try to ensure that no child is left behind.
13. We will ensure that authorities who are facing more challenges have access to support from others in the region and, where appropriate, national programmes.

14. We will take collective action where this will support several authorities with their improvement journeys, including lobbying government where necessary.
15. We will support the effectiveness of lead members and their deputies and colleagues.
16. In addition to the DfE RIIA grant, SESLIP has other resources (see Table 2) available that are not subject to the grant delivery plan reporting process. Some of this resource is earmarked for specific purposes as set out in the table below. The remainder is available to allocate to activities not covered by the grant.

Table 2: SESLIP Budget for 2025-26 showing all resources

| Income | 2025-26 | Notes |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Carry forward – earmarked for SEND | 92,314 | |
| Carry forward – IoW small package | 20,572 | |
| Carry forward – BGM research | 21,060 | |
| Carry forward - unrestricted | 50,178 | |
| SE subs | 165,500 | |
| Total before DfE grant | 349,624 | |
| DfE – data | 240,000 | |
| DfE – diagnostic | 136,800 | |
| DfE - universal | 800,000 | |
| DfE – targeted support | 460,321 | |
| Total DfE Grant | 1,637,121 | |
| Grand total | 1,986,745 | |

Grant Delivery Plan

17. The RIIA Grant Delivery Plan is part of the overall SESLIP Regional Improvement Plan, and it is shown in Appendix 4 in the format required by DfE.
18. I have constructed our plan under the four policy headings used by the DfE: Data Capacity and Capability; Regional Diagnostics; Universal Improvement; and Targeted Support.

Data Capacity and Capability

Project No. 1: Data Benchmarking for both CSC and SEND, £240,000

Project Manager: Luke Ede, East Sussex

DCS sponsor: Carolyn Fair, East Sussex

19. SEND Data

We will utilise our current active network of LA SENDAP data experts in the region to

 - improve the quality and scope of SENDAP data collection in the SE building on our current regional SEND and Education benchmarking dashboards.
 - refresh/rebuild the current dashboards responding to new standardised measures and associated data collection.
 - develop a high-level insights dashboard targeted at SENDAP leaders across SE and develop new networks of SEND leaders and experts to host data insights workshops for senior leaders and partner agencies to explore trends and outliers in LA and regional dashboard, and drive improvement.

- undertake survey or commission research into data priorities, systems, definitions and barriers - Sep-Dec 2025.
- work towards an agreed set of standardised measures beyond SEN2 requirements - Jan-Mar 2026
- build upon our current scheduled workshops with LA SENDAP data experts to further explore issues and barriers to standardised measures and data collection.
- expand our current bi-annual data collection and workshops to quarterly.
- in addition, we will engage with local partners and agencies, including LA senior leads for SENDAP to identify priority areas for standardisation and data collection.

20. Recruitment:
We will

- appoint a SENDAP Data Manager to lead on all activities described as well as preparation for upcoming SEND reforms in the East Sussex team.
- appoint a part-time SENDAP Data Manager to lead on AP and inclusion activities in the Brighton and Hove team.

21. National standardisation:
We will

- set aside potential contribution to D2I for coordination of national benchmarking.
- we will work alongside other regional data leads from across the country to share insights and best practice.
- utilise current close links with Data to Insight and NPIMG
- escalate / share insights and issues identified from regional SEND data collection and analyst workshops.
- escalate / share insights and issues identified from regional data insight workshops.
- collate insights and issues to highlight best practice around resolutions.

22. CSC Data

We will utilise our current active network of LA CSC data experts to

- improve the quality and scope of our CSC data collection,
- work-shop issues and barriers and agree standardised measures and definitions.
- continue producing quarterly and annual benchmarking dashboards and share with DfE.
- engage with local partners and agencies, including LA senior leads for CSC to inform areas of focus.
- develop our current CSC Benchmarking Dashboard, in line with enhanced data collection, to facilitate identification of trends and outliers.
- explore local issues and factors that impact upon data.
- host data insights workshops for senior leaders to explore trends and drive improvement, inviting partner agencies to attend.
- work alongside other regional data leads from across the country to share insights and best practice.

Regional Diagnostics

Project No. 2: DCS Self-assessment and Peer Challenge, £60,800

Project Manager: Richard Tyndall, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Sarah Hammond, Kent

23. We have two well established processes that I propose to continue: DCS self-evaluation and peer challenge (CSC) and courageous conversation (SEND).
24. Both these programmes are well understood and valued in the region, and there is no need to lose time reviewing or reinventing the processes.
25. One addition to the programme will be to advertise that access to the resources available in the "targeted support" section (see below) will be facilitated by the proposed intervention having been exposed to validation and peer challenge by one or other of the two processes.
26. Self-evaluation and peer challenge (CSC) will rely on benchmarking data supplied by East Sussex, and the process will be managed and coordinated, with sessions facilitated, by SESLIP consultants. Room bookings, travel and accommodation will continue to be available.
27. We will aim to deliver 6 triad/quartet events before the end of the financial year. Cost: 5 x £9,600 plus 1 x £12,800 = £60,800

Project No. 3: SEND Courageous Conversations, £76,000

Project Manager: Chris Baird, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway Courageous Conversations (SEND) will be led by Chris Baird. There will continue to be an emphasis on area teams' (including health, education and third sector partners) involvement, not just local authority staff.

29. Courageous Conversations will be available across all LAs in SESLIP area. They will be held at time that best suits each LA and located in the context of other SESLIP SEND improvement workstreams to aid development and support.
30. Significant scoping work to take place before the delivery day to ensure effectiveness of each session using:
 - output from SEND Data Capacity and Capability as it develops,
 - analysis against the 5 SEND Enablers, alongside.
 - LAs own self assessments, incorporating.
 - Safety Valve and
 - Delivering Better Value work and
 - regular liaison with LGA and DfE leads.
31. The current evaluation programme will be extended and carried out annually. Headlines will be shared across region, including with DCS group and SESLIP Strategic Group and with CIB.

32. SEND Courageous Conversations will form part of the entry point to trigger targeted support offer - through SESLIP Targeted Support team (CB to sign off with each LA DCS as support agreed).
33. We will aim to deliver 10 courageous conversations before the end of the year, with the intention of prioritising those areas that have not yet hosted a conversation. Cost: 10 x 7,600 = £76,000

Universal Improvement

34. This policy area covers a range of different activities, and I propose to deliver in the following areas:

Take Your Place – our future leaders' programme

Project No. 4: SEND Workforce development in residential settings, £84,000

Project Manager: Mark Evans, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lucy Butler, RCC

35. Working with the South East Regional Care Cooperative, we will support the development of the SEND workforce in residential settings, by supporting 12 residential workers to become registered managers by providing sponsorship for the a in Social Pedagogy at the Diploma at Kingston University.
36. This will contribute to improving sufficiency and the ability of the six local authorities involved (West Sussex, Portsmouth, RBWM, Reading, Wokingham and Surrey) improving the performance in relation to the KPI to reduce the number of children placed at distance from their homes.

Project No. 5: Take Your Place: CSC and SEND future leaders programme, £100,000

Project Manager: Mark Evans, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Emma Cockerell, Wokingham

37. Working across both CSC and SEND, to continue our partnership with The Staff College in delivering learning programmes that focus on developing leadership skills. These programmes will include:
 - aspirant assistant directors (from CSC, SEND and other backgrounds).
 - leading in partnerships – this one to include our health, police, education and third sector partners learning alongside local authority staff.
 - women's leadership.
 - black and global majority leadership.Cost: £100,000 (split 74:26 between SEND and CSC)
38. Mark Evans is in conversation with The Staff College about expanding our regional subscription to deliver these benefits.
39. We will explore opportunities for jointly commission these opportunities with our RIIA partners.

Workforce, agency, recruitment and retention

Project No. 6: CSC workforce agency and MoC, £16,250

Project Manager: Mark Evans, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

40. We have developed a good understanding of the CSC workforce, and we are continuing to support and develop the response to the agency worker regulations. We have joined forces with LIIA in the past and we will seek to continue to develop our joint working with other RIAs.

Project No. 7: SEND workforce, 7.1 £45,000; 7.2 £42,000; Total £87,000

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

41. We have work underway to apply the lessons learnt in CSC in helping us gain a better understanding of the SEND workforce. This project will cover Phases 1 and 2 of the workforce survey; a SEND induction programme; an Apprenticeship project.
42. This proposal builds upon ongoing work to support recruitment, retention and expertise in SEND workforces within LAs.
- SEND Workforce Survey Phase 2 - The purpose of phase 2 will be to identify workforce pressures regionally and in individual LAs to inform further work around training, recruitment and retention.
 - SEND Induction Programme – Work is already underway to produce an induction pack for local LAs to use with new staff entering SEND teams. The programme is flexible to provide LAs with opportunities to tailor sessions to suit their area.
 - SEND Apprenticeship project - This activity builds on ongoing work to provide recognised pathways and qualification for staff involved in the delivery of EHCPs. An apprenticeship provider has been identified and 4 meetings held to contribute to the development of content. The apprenticeship will be run as part of the Early Support apprenticeship programme in LAs which may be helpful in preparing for future changes in delivery of SEND support from LAs.

Communities of Practice (or network groups)

43. There are currently a number of SEND network groups who meet regularly with the prime purpose of providing peer support, training and information to regional leaders in SEND. In addition to these networks, there are links with other networks, specifically the DCO/DMO and the SESLIP AD Education networks. These networks are closely involved in the activities and projects identified via the SEND RIA grant and it is planned to formally recognise this by extending the remit and membership in some meetings in the year ahead using the community of practice model.

Project No. 8: SEND Strategic Leads.

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

44. This network is intended for those with strategic leadership around SEND. The organisation of services around SEND is changing and there are constant challenges in recruiting to posts. The network is intended to provide professional support with opportunities to discuss key issues with peers. Half termly virtual meetings will be organised. Some meetings may be replaced by in person day conferences. These conferences will be held jointly with SEN Operational leads and potentially Educational Leads. Wider partners will also be invited. Day conferences will provide opportunities for sharing and gaining feedback around regional SEND projects and initiatives.

Project No. 9: SEND Operational Leads

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

45. This network is designed for those managing teams with responsibility for EHCPs. There are severe recruitment issues in this area and this network is integral to the development of regional training (Induction and Apprenticeships) for EHCP caseworkers/officers. The pattern of meetings and purpose of the group is the same as identified above for Strategic Leads.

Project No. 10: PfA and post-16 Network

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP; Julie Pointer, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

46. This network brings together staff with responsibility for post 16 SEND developments in LAs with regional providers from schools and colleges, including some independent providers. The network is a platform for discussion around regional challenges with opportunities for the development of regional protocols.

Project No. 11: DCO/DMO Network

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

47. These meetings are organised by the NHS and the SE19 Programme Manager attends. This is an essential component of the networking and liaison between SESLIP and NHS and helps to cement and develop the joint working arrangements.

Project No. 12: SEND Forum

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

48. In addition to network meetings, the region will continue to organise SEND forums which are open to all involved in SEND across the region including settings, parent/carers and CYP. Forums will continue to be co-hosted by the NHS regional SEND Adviser and the SE19 SEND Programme Manager. The forum will ensure a mixture of national updates and sharing of regional good practice, include activity linked to RIIA send activity.

Project No. 13: CYP Regional Network

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP; Julie Pointer, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

49. The aim of this project is to establish a regional network for young people to amplify their voice across the region and develop with them their role as partners in coproduction. We are exploring the commissioning of time from NHSE SEND Adviser (10 hours) to help take forward this project. The project will produce a "State of the Region's CYP participation in SEND" (working title) report.
50. The SE19 SEND programme has identified and supported communities of practice over several years. Some of the cost of supporting these networks and forums will be met from the Regional SEND Programme Manager's time. **Additional costs for projects 8-13 will be £66,000.**

Project No. 14: not used

Project No. 15: Task-and-finish AP Community of Practice, 15.1 £21,000, 15.2 £21,000; Total: £42,000

Project Manager: Chris Owen, SESLIP
DCS sponsor: Sarah Daly, Portsmouth

51. The existing Access to Education (A2E) group of operational leads covers aspects of AP within its brief: Fair Access protocols and managed moves; suitable education provision under s19; off-rolling concerns. Action: Set up an AP task-and-finish group to work alongside the A2E Group (both overseen by the Education Network; with an AD in the chair).
The core scope will be minimum standards project for AP, but there will be an opportunity to share practice across the range of AP commissioning and oversight. The number of LA reps will double in response to this, and additional capacity will be required to introduce and support to new remit and meetings (including oversight of the expanded Dashboard).
52. Recruit members of the AP task-and-finish group to review current strengths and weaknesses in QA of unregistered AP. Informed by this, develop frameworks for QA of minimum standards and impacts for unregistered AP. Also, case studies and resources to support best practice from mainstream schools referring to pupils to unregistered AP. Work with Ofsted to ensure this work aligns with their definitions of illegal, unregistered schools. 4 or 5 LAs will be selected to develop their local QA practice and procedures and frameworks that can be adapted in all LAs. Case studies of strategies to support mainstream schools with best practice in referral to unregistered AP.

Project No. 16: Transformation Network, £35,000

Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP
DCS sponsor: Stuart Ashley, Hampshire

53. This project will have a focus on sharing practice, expertise and reducing duplication across the region relating to the implementation of Families First (children's social care reforms). Areas of delivery identified include JDs, competency framework and skills mapping, data benchmarking to track impact, approach to clinical multi-agency supervision / reflective discussions for managers across the region to further support

staff through this journey of change and joined up engagement with partner agencies across the region. The project would also require some funds for venues and expenses (e.g. to pay pathfinder authorities expenses to come and share their experiences)

New Universal Projects (SEND)

54. Projects 16 to 21 are designed to support local areas in developing systems to target SEN resources effectively; develop systems to encourage inclusive practice in settings and provide knowledge and resources to support their settings in including children and young people with the most complex needs in mainstream schools.

Project No. 17: Developing SEND specialism/expertise, £30,000

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP; Jo McSherrie, Surrey

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

55. We will develop regional resources/training to support settings to include children with severe and complex needs in mainstream schools.
56. Schools have identified the increased levels of need amongst pupils seeking mainstream placements. This includes children and young people with more severe and complex needs who require support that may be less familiar to teaching staff. The aim of this work is to provide materials (including virtual materials) that can be used to support mainstream settings to break down barriers to including pupils with severe and complex needs, promoting learning environments in which they can thrive.

Project No. 18: Using technology to improve decision making in SEND to enable best use of resources to support CYP with SEND, 18.1 £30,000; 18.2 £30,000; Total £60,000

Project Manager: Nick King, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

57. Two activities are proposed to provide equitable systems for the distribution of funds and/or specialist support to CYP and settings for children with SEND. This includes CYP with EHCPs and those at SEND support.
58. Activity 1 - Tool for allocating top up funding as part of the EHCP process and /or potentially as part of holistic SEN support funding allocation systems. The first phase of this work is being trialled in East Sussex. The aim will be to provide proof of concept and extend the trial in the coming year.
59. Activity 2 – Develop AI based systems to enable equitable and fair triage of requests for specialist support from settings so that LAs are confident that mechanisms are in place for targeting support to the right children and young people at the right time.

Project No. 19: Working with partners to improve co-production, 19.1 £18,000; 19.2 £12,000; Total £30,000

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway



60. This project is intended to provide information, guidance and examples of good practice around coproduction with partners in SEND, with a particular focus around the involvement of parents/carers and children/young people. A community of practice will be co-chaired by Leeanne Farach (DCS Medway and sponsor for SE19 SEND) and a representative from the NNPCF. It is hoped to commission the NNPCF as partners in this activity.

Project No. 20: Mainstream Inclusion Project, 20.1 £50,000; 20.2 £55,000; Total £105,000

Project Manager: Marian Cullen, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

61. Mainstream Inclusion Project – a project to support local areas in developing pragmatic, effective, collaborative approaches that increase confidence and knowledge around including children and young people with SEND in mainstream settings. The activity aims to build upon the plethora of materials currently circulating to provide a regional tool for local areas to use as a baseline for developing and accessing practice in their local areas. The work will take into account current and future learning in this area shared by regional change programme colleagues. It is intended to use the regional community of practice act as a model for subsequent local area communities. The regional tool will be used to identify best practice which will be widely shared through websites and a celebration conference.

Project No. 21: SENDAP Inclusion. 21.1; £26,000; 21.2 £21,000; Total £47,000

Project Manager: Chris Owen, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Sarah Daly, Portsmouth

62. SE LAs are all reporting increasing pressures to fund suitable education under s19 of the Education Act 1996 and concerns about complaint determinations (particularly LG Ombudsman). A project to support LA peer-to-peer learning and practice development resulting in:
- more robust LA policies
 - clearer decision-making and responsibilities across children's services
 - case studies of improvements, including of shared strategies to prevent s19 with local schools.

We will fund up to 4 projects between 10 LAs working together to improve s19 policies, decision protocols, partnerships with schools:

Project 22: Youth Offending Teams and Speech and Language assessment. 22.1 £44,875; 22.2 £47,439; Total £92,314

Project Manager: Carly Murphy, Milton Keynes

DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

63. This project builds on some effective early work in relation to Youth Justice services and Speech and Language Therapy being part of the assessment for young people when on the edge of the criminal justice system. The project would 'pilot' evidence or 'grow' an intervention, and we can utilise the Heads of YOT's in the Thames Valley Police area.

64. The outcome will be an evidence-based approach to support those on the edge of the criminal justice system. In particular it will consider mechanisms for young people to receive the right speech and language/SEND interventions where those needs are unrecognised and/or undiagnosed at point of coming to the attention of the YJS. The aim is to design an intervention to divert them from the criminal justice system. Then in part 2 we would look to implementation and roll-out across the 9 LAs within the Thames Valley Police area.

New Universal Projects (CSC)

Project 23: not used

Project 24: Widening community involvement in fostering. 24.1 £45,500; 24.2 £54,500; Total £100,000

Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Sarah Daly, Portsmouth

65. We know there is a shortage of foster carers and that there are sufficiency issues across the region and nationally. This project will be to develop and cost options for wider community involvement, ensuring safeguarding and compliance with legislation. For example, we know there are many people who have the right values and are keen to help in small ways, but for many reasons they cannot be a foster carer. The intended outcome of this project is that every community member with something to give to fostering is supported and enabled to help, rather than being turned away.
66. This help from the wider community might be as small as teaching foster carers how to make food from the country of children's origin, help with hair, regular transport, acting as a regular babysitter, or weekend respite carer building a relationship with an individual child, or it may include other aspects of one off or ongoing support.
67. This aligns with FFCP direction of travel keeping children in communities and the McAllister review around ensuring children have loving relationships.
68. Year one (2025-26) is for research, design scoping and business case development which will include:
- mapping existing practice and projects in this area
 - developing the systems and processes for approval (developing legally compliant alternative approaches to full approval) focusing on being as streamlined and flexible as possible
 - designing appropriate oversight/QA
 - develop a costed case (included definition of what are volunteering roles, vs paid roles and likely costs)
 - convene a service design group including families to co-develop possible new approaches for implementation in the new financial year.
69. In year two (2026-27) we intend to test these approaches in LAs in the South East. Costs for year two will be scoped in year one and will be subject to agreement and further discussion.

70. This project is intended to:
- Prevent placement breakdown by packing more support around foster carers
 - Explore whether this approach could create a pipeline for future carers, who might not yet be ready, but with support and time could be foster carers of the future
 - Provide opportunity to existing foster carers who may be ready to retire/burned out but still want to support

71. The project will be sponsored by Sarah Daly, DCS Portsmouth and DCS sponsor for fostering, and will be overseen by the regional fostering leaders group.

Project 25: Regional training to increase skill in adoption and early permanence. £15,000

Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

72. The purpose of this project is to increase the skill and confidence of social workers in relation to adoption and early permanence. Online training sessions will be open to all 19 LAs and the content will cover adoption within wider family networks (linked with family first ambitions relating to use of family networks).
73. This project will be overseen by the Regional Adoption Leadership Board and be delivered by one of more of the region's RAAs.

Project 26: Coproducing a regional local offer, focusing on less heard voices. £15,000

Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

74. The purpose of this project is to augment existing co-production work with a range of kinship carers of all types (SG, family and friends foster carers, CAOs, private fostering). The focus of this project is very much on less heard voices and the kinship carers where LAs have less strong relationships or who are less present in standard engagement approaches. This information will be used to ensure Kinship local offers produced by councils meet local needs.

Project 27: Business case for Kinship Connected deployment 27.1 £6,000; 27.2 tba following business case. Total £6,000

Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

75. It is proposed that this part of the project will develop the business case for intensive support to prevent kinship breakdown. Kinship Connected offers intensive, in-person 1:1 support delivered by a Kinship Family Worker within the local community delivered over 6 months, with costs starting at £57,500 for up to 40 referrals over 12 months.

Project 28: Piloting Kinship Reach. 28.1 £28,500; 28.2 £30,500; Total £59,000

Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

76. Kinship Reach is a remote programme delivered over three months through telephone or video calls with a Kinship Family Worker. Volunteer host sites will be identified to trial and evaluate this support package. The programme will be spread over two financial years. Costs start at £53,000 for up to 60 referrals over 12 months.

Universal Projects – Project Management

Project 29: SEND Programme Manager and support, £72,000

Project Manager: Sheelagh Sullivan, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lee-Anne Farach, Medway

Project 30: SESLIP Programme Manager and support, £35,000

Project Manager: Richard Tyndall, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Sarah Hammond, Kent

Project 31: SESLIP website, £2,500

Project Manager: Isabelle Gregory, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Sarah Hammond, Kent

Project 32: KCC overhead contribution, £25,000

Project Manager: Emma Stone, Kent

DCS sponsor: Sarah Hammond, Kent

77. The SESLI Programme has three elements: two derive from the DfE RIIA grant for CSC and SEND work; the third derives from SESLIP's own funds.
78. The total budget available in 2025-26 is set out in Table 3.

Table 3: SESLI Programme available funds 2025-26

| | DfE CSC | DfE SEND | SESLIP own funds |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 430,921 | 1,206,200 | 349,624 |
| Percentage of DfE Grant | 26% | 74% | |
| Percentage of SESLI Programme | 22% | 61% | 17% |

79. Four costs are identified as programme management costs: the SEND Programme Manager and her support; the SESLIP Programme Manager and his support; the website; the contribution to Kent CC recognising their costs in receiving and administering SESLIP funds.
80. Where costs fall across more than one heading they are apportioned according to the percentages set out in Table 3

Targeted Support

Project 33: Targeted Support, £460,321

Project Manager: Chris Baird, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Carolyn Fair, East Sussex

81. Building on our experience of managing the "small packages of sector led support", we will publish a local prospectus of Targeted Support (for both CSC and SEND) that is widely circulated and discussed across the region, including at SE Parent/Carer Chairs Network, DCS group, SEND Strategic Group.
82. The programme will be managed by three SESLIP Consultants led by Chris Baird and including Jenny Boyd and Claire Woodcock. They will be aiming to deliver 3 packages for CSC and 12 packages for SEND each year. Costs: scheme management £138,096; 15 packages £322,225 @ approx. £21,500 each
83. The Targeted Support operating model will be the same across CSC and SEND. It will enable LA colleagues to be part of the support delivered to different LA areas, encompassing their experience and creating a learning system for those receiving and delivering support.
84. Incoming work will arrive from other SESLIP diagnostic programmes (Project 2, DCS self-assessment and peer challenge; Project 3, SEND Courageous Conversations), referral from CSC and SEND Improvement advisers at DfE and LGA, CSC and SEND Universal Improvement and direct demand from LA colleagues via regional networks and forums. A scoping phase will follow to establish a coherent project plan with realistic timescales and measurable outcomes.
85. Robust governance controls will be put in place for each project and monitoring progress will take place throughout. A commitment is in place to coordinate with each LA to ensure that targeted support adds value to existing funded improvement programmes.
86. For CSC support, an emphasis will be placed on: the development of the Families First Partnership Programme, including updated local protocols for assessment reflecting new single service, refreshed threshold documents and a shared practice framework for individual LA areas; development of specific expertise and innovative practice in response to extra-familial harm, child sexual abuse and domestic violence.

SESLIP own funds schemes

Project No. 34: Regional Adoption Leadership Board, £11,500

Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

Project No. 35: Commissioners Network, £18,000

Project Manager: Chris Baird, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lara Patel, Reading

Project No. 36: Early Help Network, £9,500

Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Grainne Siggins, Bracknell Forest

Project No. 37: Fostering Network, £9,500
Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP
DCS sponsor: Sarah Daly, Portsmouth

Project No. 38: Kinship Care Network, £9,500
Project Manager: Rebecca Eligon, SESLIP
DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

Project No. 39: Principal Social Workers Network, £12,000
Project Manager: Jenny Boyd, SESLIP
DCS sponsor: Lara Patel, Reading

Project No. 40: Quality Assurance Network, £15,000
Project Manager: Kevin Kasaven, Kent
DCS sponsor: Sarah Hammond, Kent

Project No. 41: AD Safeguarding Network, £18,000
Project Manager: Mark Evans, SESLIP
DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

Project No. 42: Education Network, £18,000
Project Manager: Chris Owen, SESLIP
DCS sponsor: Sarah Daly, Portsmouth

Project No. 43: Lead Members Network, £7,500
Project Manager: Helen Watson, LGA
Cllr sponsor: Cllr Jacquie Russell, West Sussex

87. SESLIP has identified and supported communities of practice in many areas of CSC: Adoption; Commissioners; Early Help; Fostering; Kinship Care; Principal Social Workers; Quality Assurance. We support two Assistant Director networks for Safeguarding and Education. We also support a Lead Members Network. We will continue to support these groups to deliver pilot projects; learning days; co-production conferences and similar activities that share good practice and encourage change and innovation. This work will be funded from SESLIP own funds and not part of the DfE grant funding regime.
88. The relevant communities of practice will be asked to review practice and improvement opportunities in responding to extra-familial harms, child sexual abuse and domestic abuse.

Project 44: Rewards and Offers for Foster Carers. £30,000
Project Manager: Anne-Marie Ali, LAFSE
DCS sponsor: Grainne Siggins, Bracknell Forest

89. Local Authority Fostering South East (LAFSE) have identified a project designed to improve retention rates of foster carers. The project will provide support for a strategic review and analysis of rewards and benefits schemes currently available to foster carers

across the LAFSE South East local authorities. The aim is for a consultant to extract successful policies and papers for key decision (where necessary) and provide a template to all local authorities to individualise with unique content and hopefully put through respective governance around the same time, so the offers are both improved and implemented with speed. This work will place foster families and the children they support at the heart of the review, aiming to better recognise their vital contribution by improving access to meaningful rewards and support.

Project 45: IoW targeted support, £20,572

Project Manager: Chris Baird, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Carolyn Fair, East Sussex

90. Last year, it was agreed that £20,572 earmarked for the Isle of Wight targeted support would be carried over into this year. I have asked Ashley Whittaker (DCS IoW) to contact Chris Baird to set about activating this project as part of the new targeted support arrangements.

Project 46: Children and Young People and Continuing Care, £35,000

Project Manager: Sue Kocaman, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Lin Ferguson, Windsor and Maidenhead

91. This project is about creating a regional approach to children in continuing care. It is a problem area for most authorities across the SE. The focus of this work would be to improve outcomes and consistency of services for children with additional health needs in the region. We have identified 3 elements of the project:
92. Part 1: Regional and national CYPCC networks
- Development of South East region CYPCC network, to facilitate consistent application of the Framework and legal thresholds within the region.
 - Request for SE ADCS members to promote attendance at CYPCC National Forum.
 - And/or South East network to have a nominated member to attend ADCS CYPCC National Forum.
 - Propose as a first step the circulation in the South East region of a CYPCC intelligence gathering questionnaire, to better understand regional issues and refine the network's goals and workplan.
93. Part 2: commission legal review of CYPCC Framework
- Recommend SE ADCS commission legal review of CYPCC Framework, either through existing resources or external counsel's opinion.
 - Instructions to counsel to include current concerns as identified above, for further exploration.
 - Goal to use this to set out regional position and guidance on CYPCC and to lobby for a revised Framework, with full input to development from LAs and ADCS.
94. Part 3: data analysis and benchmarking
- All Age Continuing Care Data Set, data collection by all ICBs introduced from 01/04/2025
 - For the first time there will be standard national reporting on CYPCC data

- Recommend future analysis of data to include conversion rate, delays in assessments, reassessments, appeals and disputes, and highlight possible trends of concern.

Project 47: QA research project, phase 2. £30,000

Project Manager: Kevin Kasaven, Kent

DCS sponsor: Sarah Hammond, Kent

95. In phase 1 of the project, Kent Analytics were commissioned by SESLIP to complete an analysis of the region's Quality Assurance Frameworks (QAF) and activity to understand what makes a strong QAF whilst developing a proforma to support improved inclusive supervision. An analysis of the region's Ofsted activity regularly cites the quality of management oversight recorded on the child's file as an area of improvement. The aim of the proforma is to both improve inclusive practice and the quality of management recordings on a child's file. The research will be completed by summer 2025 and will produce a suggested proforma by the Autumn, co-produced by QA leads from across the region, where we aim to share the research and launch the proforma at a conference. The conference will be aimed at QA professionals from across the region supporting an attendance of up to 120 individuals, perhaps more if the budget allows.
96. I currently participate in ADCS subgroups and attend the Sector Led Improvement Programme meetings where I shared the basis of this research. I plan to share the research with ADCS and the DfE to seek their support and/or endorsement of the research findings where I hope to invite both organisations to the conference to demonstrate their endorsement and support national publication of the research and proforma. The aim is to attend ADCS in 2026 to share the research findings, the co-produced proforma and to complete further research by June 2026 to understand early signs of impact on the use of the proforma. For this reason, a phase 2 following up on the research will be required in 2026 with a midway report in June 2026 and a final report by late Autumn 2026 as to suggested analysis of the impact of the phase 1 research and the co-produced proforma. Budget: £10K to fund the conference and a further £20K for 2026 to complete phase 2 of the research.

Project No. 48: BGM workforce survey, £22,000

Project Manager: Kevin Kasaven, Kent

DCS sponsor: Mac Heath, Milton Keynes

97. We will continue to develop our projects that give us a better understanding of the barriers faced by the black and global majority members of the workforce and introduce initiatives designed to reduce these barriers. This work will be funded from SESLIP own funds and not be part of the DfE grant funding regime.

Project 49: SE ADCS room bookings, £25,000

Project Manager: Richard Tyndall, SESLIP

DCS sponsor: Sarah Hammond, Kent

98. SE ADCS Rooms. SESLIP subscriptions are used to pay for regional meeting room bookings.

Appendix 1

Analysis of CSC Dashboard as at June 2025

| Outcome | 1st sub head | 2nd sub-head | 3rd sub-head | SE vs Nat Ave | Reg Rank | Outlier LA1 | Outlier LA2 |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|----------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 Family Support | Access | CIN | | Better | 4 | Isle of Wight | Reading |
| 1 Family Support | Access | Re-Referrals | | Worse | 9 | Isle of Wight | Reading |
| 1 Family Support | Stability | New CLA | | Worse | 8 | Kent | Portsmouth |
| 1 Family Support | Stability | Stock CLA | | Better | 2 | Isle of Wight | Southampton |
| 1 Family Support | Stability | New UASC | | - | - | - | - |
| 1 Family Support | Stability | Stock UASC | | - | - | - | - |
| 1 Family Support | Well-being and development | Absence | CINO | Worse | 6 | Portsmouth | East Sussex |
| 1 Family Support | Well-being and development | Absence | CPPO | Worse | 8 | Oxfordshire | Portsmouth |
| 1 Family Support | Well-being and development | Absence | CLA | Worse | 6 | West Berkshire | Windsor & Maidenhead |
| 1 Family Support | Well-being and development | Persistent Absence | CINO | Worse | 6 | Portsmouth | East Sussex |
| 1 Family Support | Well-being and development | Persistent Absence | CPPO | Worse | 8 | Oxfordshire | Southampton |
| 1 Family Support | Well-being and development | Persistent Absence | CLA | Worse | 7 | West Berkshire | Portsmouth |
| 1 Family Support | Ed Attainment | KS2 | CINO | Worse | 8 | Milton Keynes | Medway |
| 1 Family Support | Ed Attainment | KS2 | CPPO | Worse | 6 | - | - |
| 1 Family Support | Ed Attainment | KS2 | CLA | Worse | 8 | - | - |
| 1 Family Support | Ed Attainment | KS4 | CINO | Worse | 6 | Portsmouth | Southampton |
| 1 Family Support | Ed Attainment | KS4 | CPPO | Worse | 6 | Southampton | Brighton & Hove |
| 1 Family Support | Ed Attainment | KS4 | CLA | Worse | 9 | West Berkshire | Portsmouth |
| 2 Family Network | CLA to SGO | | | Worse | 9 | - | - |
| 2 Family Network | CLA to RO-CAO | | | Worse | 8 | - | - |
| 3 Safety | General safety | 2nd + CPP | | Worse | 5 | West Berkshire | Windsor & Maidenhead |
| 3 Safety | General safety | CPP 2yrs+ | | Worse | 8 | - | - |
| 3 Safety | General safety | Hospital Admissions | | - | 4 | Isle of Wight | East Sussex |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Domestic Abuse child | | Better | 3 | Kent | East Sussex |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Domestic Abuse parent | | Better | 3 | Isle of Wight | Medway |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Domestic Abuse person | | Worse | 5 | Medway | Kent |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Emotional Abuse | | Better | 4 | Isle of Wight | Medway |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Faith linked Abuse | | Better | 2 | Slough | Southampton |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Neglect | | Worse | 6 | Isle of Wight | Portsmouth |



| Outcome | 1st sub head | 2nd sub-head | 3rd sub-head | SE vs Nat Ave | Reg Rank | Outlier LA1 | Outlier LA2 |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Phys abuse adult on child | | Worse | 7 | Isle of Wight | Medway |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Phys abuse child on child | | Better | 5 | Brighton & Hove | Slough |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Phys Abuse unknown | | Better | - | - | - |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Sexual Abuse - adult on child | | Better | 3 | Isle of Wight | East Sussex |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Sexual Abuse - child on child | | Worse | 8 | East Sussex | Bracknell Forest |
| 3 Safety | Child abuse or neglect | Sexual Abuse - unknown | | Better | - | - | - |
| 3 Safety | Harms outside home | Child Criminal Exploitation | | Better | 1 | Slough | Reading |
| 3 Safety | Harms outside home | Child sexual exploitation | | Better | 1 | Slough | Isle of Wight |
| 3 Safety | Harms outside home | Gangs | | Better | 2 | Southampton | Slough |
| 3 Safety | Harms outside home | Going missing | | Better | 1 | Milton Keynes | East Sussex |
| 3 Safety | Harms outside home | Trafficking | | Average | - | - | - |
| 4 Stable Homes | Where a child lives | CLA with 3+ placements/yr | | Worse | 8 | Southampton | Milton Keynes |
| 4 Stable Homes | Where a child lives | distance from home | | Worse | 7 | Surrey | Buckinghamshire |
| 4 Stable Homes | Where a child lives | % in setting | Foster | Better | 1 | Portsmouth | Medway |
| 4 Stable Homes | Where a child lives | % in setting | Secure&chl dn homes | Worse | 8 | West Berkshire | Buckinghamshire |
| 4 Stable Homes | Where a child lives | % in setting | Ind/semi/supported | Worse | 6 | Kent | West Berkshire |
| 4 Stable Homes | Where a child lives | adoption time to match | All ages | Worse | 7 | Portsmouth | Medway |
| 4 Stable Homes | Child well being | SDQ Questionnaire | | - | - | - | - |
| 4 Stable Homes | Quality of life | EET | 17-18 | Worse | 9 | Hampshire | Kent |
| 4 Stable Homes | Quality of life | EET | 19-21 | Worse | 8 | Hampshire | Reading |
| 4 Stable Homes | Quality of life | Suitable Accom | 17-18 | Worse | 9 | - | - |
| 4 Stable Homes | Quality of life | Suitable Accom | 19-21 | Worse | 9 | Hampshire | Southampton |



Appendix 2

Mapping Projects to Enablers and Outcomes

1. The SESLIP response to the RIIA grant for 2025-26 is informed by the DfE's objective to support:
 - the delivery of the [Children's Social Care National Framework \(December 2023\)](#) in children's social care; and
 - the implementation of the lessons learned from the [What Works in SEND effective local practice case studies](#)

Table 1: CSC National Framework Enablers and Outcomes

| | Enablers | Outcomes |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Multi-agency working is prioritised and effective | children, young people and families stay together and get the help they need |
| 2 | Leaders drive conditions for effective practice | children and young people are supported by their family network |
| 3 | The workforce is equipped and effective | children and young people are safe in and outside of their homes |
| 4 | - | children in care and care leavers have stable, loving homes |

Table 2: What works in SEND Enablers

| | Enablers |
|---|---|
| 1 | Co-production and relationships between children and young people, families and practitioners |
| 2 | Shared vision and evidence-informed priorities |
| 3 | Stable and knowledgeable leadership and governance |
| 4 | A focus on high-quality delivery of the essentials |
| 5 | A well-organised, skilled and supported workforce |

2. This document maps our proposed projects against the enablers and outcomes in Table 3 (and vice-versa in Table 4) identified in these two documents.

Our projects

Table 3: Projects sorted by enablers and outcomes

| Proj. No. | | National framework enablers | National framework outcomes | What works in SEND enablers |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Data Capacity and Capability | | | | |
| 1 | Data Benchmarking for both CSC and SEND | 2,3 | 1,2,3,4 | 2,3 |
| Regional Diagnostics | | | | |



| Proj. No. | | National framework enablers | National framework outcomes | What works in SEND enablers |
|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | DCS Self-assessment and Peer Challenge | 2 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| 3 | SEND Courageous Conversations | | | 2 |
| Universal Improvement | | | | |
| Take Your Place – our future leaders' programme | | | | |
| 4 | SEND Workforce development in residential settings | | | 5 |
| 5 | Take Your Place: CSC and SEND future leaders programme | 3 | 1,2,3,4 | 5 |
| Workforce, agency, recruitment and retention | | | | |
| 6 | CSC workforce agency and MoC | 3 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| 7 | SEND workforce | | | 5 |
| Communities of Practice | | | | |
| 8 | SEND Strategic Leads | | | 3 |
| 9 | SEND Operational Leads | | | 4 |
| 10 | PfA and post-16 Network | | | 4 |
| 11 | DCO/DMO Network | | | 3,4 |
| 12 | SEND Forum | | | 3 |
| 13 | CYP Regional Network | | | 1 |
| 14 | Not used | | | |
| 15 | AP Network | | | 3,4 |
| 16 | Transformation Network | 1,2,3 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| New Universal Projects (SEND) | | | | |
| 17 | Developing SEND specialism/expertise | | | 4,5 |
| 18 | Using technology to improve decision making in SEND to enable best use of resources to support CYP with SEND | | | 5 |
| 19 | Working with partners to foster co-production | | | 1 |
| 20 | Mainstream Inclusion Project | | | 4 |
| 21 | SENDAP Inclusion | | | 4 |
| 22 | Youth Offending Teams and Speech and Language assessment | 3 | 1 | |
| New Universal Projects (CSC) | | | | |
| 23 | Not used | | | |
| 24 | Widening community involvement in Fostering | 2, 3 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| 25 | Regional training to increase skill in adoption and early permanence | 3 | 4 | |
| 26 | Coproducing a regional local offer, focusing on less heard voices | 3 | 2 | |
| 27 | Business case for Kinship Connected | 3 | 2 | |
| 28 | Piloting approach to Kinship Reach | 3 | 2 | |
| Universal Projects – Project Management | | | | |
| 29 | SEND Programme Manager and support | | | |
| 30 | SESLIP Programme Manager and support | | | |
| 31 | SESLIP website | | | |
| 32 | KCC overhead contribution | | | |
| Targeted Support | | | | |
| 33 | Targeted Support | 1,2,3 | 1,2,3,4 | 4 |
| 34 | Regional Adoption Leadership Board | 1,2,3 | 4 | |
| 35 | Commissioners Network | 1,2,3 | 1,2,3,4 | |



| Proj. No. | | National framework enablers | National framework outcomes | What works in SEND enablers |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 36 | Early Help Network | 1,2,3 | 1 | |
| 37 | Fostering Network | 1,2,3 | 4 | |
| 38 | Kinship Care Network | 1,2,3 | 2 | |
| 39 | Principal Social Workers Network | 1,2,3 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| 40 | Quality Assurance Network | 1,2,3 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| 41 | AD Safeguarding Network | 1,2,3 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| 42 | Education Network | 1,2,3 | 1 | |
| 43 | Lead Members Network | 1,2,3 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| SESLIP own funds schemes | | | | |
| 44 | Rewards and Offers for Foster Carers | 3 | 4 | |
| 45 | loW targeted support | 2 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| 46 | Children and Young People and Continuing Care | | | 1 |
| 47 | QA research project, phase 2 | 3 | 1,2,3,4 | |
| 48 | BGM workforce survey | 3 | 1,2,3,4 | 5 |
| 49 | SE ADCS room bookings | | | |

Table 4: Enablers and outcomes sorted by projects

| | CSC National Framework enablers | Projects |
|---|---|--|
| | All enablers | 16, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 |
| 1 | Multi-agency working is prioritised and effective | - |
| 2 | Leaders drive conditions for effective practice | 1, 2, 24, 42 |
| 3 | The workforce is equipped and effective | 1, 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 26,27, 28, 44, 47, 48 |
| | | |
| | CSC National Framework outcomes | |
| | All outcomes | 1, 2, 5, 6, 16, 24, 33, 35, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, 47, 48 |
| 1 | children, young people and families stay together and get the help they need | 22, 36, 42 |
| 2 | children and young people are supported by their family network | 26, 27, 28, 38, |
| 3 | children and young people are safe in and outside of their homes | - |
| 4 | children in care and care leavers have stable, loving homes | 24, 25, 34, 37, 44, |
| | What works in SEND enablers | |
| 1 | Co-production and relationships between children and young people, families and practitioners | 13, 19, 46, |
| 2 | Shared vision and evidence-informed priorities | 1, 3, |
| 3 | Stable and knowledgeable leadership and governance | 1, 8, 11, 12, 15 |
| 4 | A focus on high-quality delivery of the essentials | 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 20, 21, 33 |
| 5 | A well-organised, skilled and supported workforce | 4, 5, 7, 17, 18, 48, |



Appendix 3

Outputs from 2024-25 round of DCS Peer Challenge events

1. In the period January – April 2025 6 DCS self-assessment and peer challenge events were held, in which each local authority's self-assessment was subject to peer challenge by two or three other LA teams. (see paragraph 28 for the details of these events).
2. This was the seventh annual round of peer challenge events SESLIP has successfully completed. More details of how SESLIP organises peer challenge are here <https://www.seslip.co.uk/dcs-peer-challenge/>.
3. Each year, these events produce a long list of suggestions for the future SESLI programme. This year I have summarised and organised these suggestions under the broad headings of the DfE's RIIA Grant statement of requirements.

Reform Agenda and National Policy

4. The SESLI programme has consistently been guided by recognition that all children's services have strengths which can help inspire improvement in others; and that they are all capable of further improvement. The programme aims to discourage the conclusion that only poor or weak services need improvement help; instead, it celebrates honest self-evaluation and constant improvement as antidotes to complacency.
5. Reflecting this commitment to a "pull" model of help (as opposed to a "push" model), colleagues identified a problem with top-down directives which did not fit local needs; expressed a desire for bottom-up local authority input into reforms rather than top-down implementation, along with the opportunity to lobby DfE when inconsistent support and lack of coordination was identified.

Data

6. **SEND Accountability & Data:** Problems getting health providers engaged and accountable; fragmented data systems; need for improved integration and data-sharing. Investment needed in data systems and digital tools to support reforms and inspections.
7. Challenges of getting consistent, **place-based data** (ICB vs LA footprints; MI system mismatches).

Diagnostics

8. **Health providers** slow to engage, act, or be accountable for children's outcomes. Tension between agencies acting as "partners" vs passive "stakeholders," especially health.

9. Need for **regional rather than LA-by-LA conversations** with ICBs and health partners, including need for strategic conversations with health commissioners at the regional level.
10. Need for clearer, more accountable, **multi-agency partnerships**.

Universal Workforce

11. **SEND Workforce:** Recruitment challenges, especially for key roles (e.g. Designated Social Care Officers, Educational Psychologists).
12. **CSC Workforce Pressures:** Heavy reliance on early-career staff, newly qualified social workers; Issues with flexible/hybrid working and expectations around working hours; Recruitment challenges and potential need for increased staffing.

Universal SENDAP&I

13. **SEND Tribunals:** Issues with decisions that are difficult to implement; need for case studies and evidence to support feedback to the DfE.
14. **Cost & Transitions:** Delays in health assessments leading to children "aging out" before support, with knock-on costs for adult services.
15. **Parent Carer Forums (PCFs):** Need for more mature, collaborative relationships, training, and buddying to reduce conflict.
16. **Elective Home Education (EHE) / Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS):** All children, including those with EHCPs, should follow the national curriculum; Need for regional analysis of EHE drivers and costs.
17. **AI and Technology:** Potential to collaborate regionally on AI tools (e.g. EHCP writers) to reduce costs.

Universal CSC

18. Expand **Family Network Meetings** and share practice around early help; SESLIP could coordinate pilots and share learning regionally; clarify roles, skills, and responsibilities of practitioners, schools, and other services in family support.
19. Develop **community capacity and parental networks**, with place-based approaches.
20. Regional strategy with police to target higher-level **child exploitation** perpetrators.
21. Regional work on **unregulated placements**,
22. DBS flexibility for **kinship carers**.

23. **Complex needs of younger children in residential care** increasing (deprivation of liberty, tier 4 CAMHS, needs faster regional responses)
24. **Quality Assurance:** Balancing quantity vs quality, outcomes over compliance, empowering children and families.
25. Regional focus on **children missing education or at risk of care**.
26. Challenges of delivering education within broader social care frameworks.

Targeted

27. Each LA team used the peer challenge process to validate their own improvement plans, and individual approaches for targeted funds will follow.
28. 2024-25 DCS self-assessment and peer challenge

Table 1: Details of the 2024-25 round of DCS self-assessment and peer challenge

| Triad / Quartet | 2025 | LA1 | LA2 | LA3 | LA4 | F to F or virtual? |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1 | 25 April | Brighton and Hove | Isle of Wight | Portsmouth | Wokingham | F to F |
| 2 | 07 March | East Sussex | Surrey | West Sussex | | F to F |
| 3 | 03 April | Hampshire | Kent | Oxfordshire | | F to F |
| 4 | 31 March | Bracknell Forest | Medway | Reading | | F to F |
| 5 | 21 Jan | Milton Keynes | West Berkshire | Windsor and Maidenhead | | F to F |
| 6 | 31 March | Buckinghamshire | Slough | Southampton | | Virtual |

Appendix 4

| Requirements | | | RIIA Proposals | |
|---|---------|--|---|--|
| Core Requirements | SoR Ref | Sub-Requirement Detail | Planned activity to meet requirement | Key Performance Indicator (KPI) |
| SEND Data Capacity and Capability To support the better use of data by individual LAs and as a collective region to enable SEND and AP service improvement. | 1.1 | Develop data collection expertise and experience within the RIIA. | Project No 1 Luke Ede | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end of Mar 26, we will deliver an agreed set of SE SENDAP measures, standardised with consistent definitions. By end of Mar 26, we will publish quarterly and annual SENDAP Benchmarking dashboards. By end of Mar 26, we will organise/hold 3 meetings of the SENDAP data managers network and 3 meetings of SENDAP Insights & Trends workshops. By end of Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs in data collection and attending workshops. By end of Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation by SEND strategic leads of the SE SENDAP data benchmarks, and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSSs |
| | 1.2 | Develop analytical expertise and experience within the RIIA. | | |
| | 1.3 | Collaborate with the Department to support the development and improvement of SEND data. | | |
| SEND Regional Diagnostics To support the identification of issues in SEND and AP within LAs and across the region. | 2.1 | Design a delivery strategy for Regional Diagnostics. The aim of the diagnostics should be to review area(s) of SEND performance within LAs in the region and area(s) of performance across the region as a whole. | Project No 2 Courageous Conversations Chris Baird | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end of Mar 26, we will deliver 10 courageous conversations. By end of Mar 26, we will have engaged with all SE LAs and have programmed a courageous conversation in 2025-26 or 2026-27 with all of them. By end of Mar 26, we will have followed up the diagnostic work of each courageous conversation with either a targeted support package (see targeted support project below) or referral to other national or regional support programmes. By end of Dec 25, we will publish a further evaluation of the programme, including feedback from partners from the statutory and third sectors, and share this |
| | 2.2 | Deliver the designed Regional Diagnostics. Ensure delivery is available to every LA in the region. Delivery can take any form the RIIA and LA deems appropriate and could include a self-assessment and peer challenge programme | | |
| | 2.3 | Collate and share headline learnings | | |
| | 2.4 | Ensure the Regional Diagnostic informs and aligns with the RIIAs SEND Targeted Support offer | | |



| | | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|--|
| | 2.5 | Ensure the Regional Diagnostics informs and aligns with, and supports other resources / programmes, | | <p>with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSs</p> <p>5. By end of Mar 26, we will publish a programme for 2026-27, including anticipated impacts on outcomes for CYP</p> |
| <p>SEND Universal Improvement</p> <p>To support SEND and AP improvement need(s) for all LAs within the region in preparation for upcoming national reforms.</p> | 3.1 | Design and deliver activity to drive improvement across the region on an identified regional SEND priority (or priorities). Design and deliver activity that enables LAs in the region to support and drive progress towards greater inclusion in mainstream settings | <p>4 SEND Residential staff</p> <p>Mark Evans</p> | <p>1. By end Oct 25, we will enrol 12 residential workers on the Kingston University Social Pedagogy Diploma</p> <p>2. By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation of their experiences on the course.</p> <p>3. By end Mar 26, we will publish recommendations for the future of training and development for residential workers</p> |
| | | | <p>5 TYP</p> <p>Mark Evans</p> | <p>1. By end Mar 26, 40 SE delegates will have completed leadership development opportunities across the four programmes, and</p> <p>a. these delegates will be drawn from at least 15 SE LAs, and</p> <p>b. at least 3 of these delegates will have secured AD appointments.</p> <p>2. By end Mar 26, we will have delivered a “Leading in Partnership” programme with delegates from LAs, statutory and third sector partners.</p> <p>3. By end Mar 26, we will publish an evaluation of the programmes offered and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSs</p> <p>4. By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme of further leadership development for 2026-27,</p> |
| | | | <p>7 SEND workforce</p> <p>Claire Woodcock</p> | <p>1. By end Oct 25, we will publish the SE SEND workforce survey (phase 1) and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSs</p> <p>2. By end Oct 25, we will publish the SEND Workforce Induction Pack, including the virtual legal training.</p> <p>3. By end Mar 26, we will have held 3 meetings of the project working group.</p> |

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| | | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. By end Dec 25, we will have identified a provider to be our partner in the proposed apprenticeship programme. 5. By end Mar 26, we will have begun at least 4 pilots of the apprenticeship programme |
| | | | <p>8 SEND Strategic Leads</p> <p>Sheelagh Sullivan</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end Mar 26, we will organise/hold 4 meetings, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2 meetings as regional in-person conferences with wider partners attending. b. 2 meetings held jointly with the Education Network 2. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs, with at half attending each meeting. 3. By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation of the work of the group and share this with SE DCSs |
| | | | <p>9 SEND Operational Leads</p> <p>Sheelagh Sullivan</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end Mar 26, we will organise/hold 4 meetings, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2 meetings as regional in-person conferences with wider partners attending. b. 2 meetings held jointly with the Education Network 2. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs, with at half attending each meeting. 3. By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation of the work of the group and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSs |
| | | | <p>10 PfA and post-16 Network</p> <p>Julie Pointer</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end Mar 26, we will publish at one good practice guide or regional protocol/guideline. 2. By end Mar 26, we will organise/hold at least 2 meetings of the network. 3. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs, as well as a range of professionals and providers and wider partners, including NNPCF. |



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| | 3.2 | Develop and establish strong regional partnerships with wider stakeholders and regional system partners | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSs By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme for 2026-27, including anticipated impacts on outcomes for CYP |
| | | | 11 DCO/DMO Network Sheelagh Sullivan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, the SE19 SEND programme will attend every meeting organised by the NHS |
| | | | 12 SEND Forum Sheelagh Sullivan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will organise one forum every half term (6 per year in total, 4 before end of March 26), chaired jointly with NHS By end Mar 26, we will organise one forum every half term (6 per year in total, 4 before end of March 26), chaired jointly with NHS. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs as well as a range of professionals and providers and wider partners, including NNPCF and CYP By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation and share this with SE DCSs |
| | | | 13 CYP Regional Network Julie Pointer | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Nov 25, we will identify regional leaders in this area of work, with at least one contact per LA area. By end Mar 26, we will organise 2 meetings, with at least 50% of LAs attending each meeting. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs By end Mar 26, we will publish a “state of the region” report setting out how CYP are currently engaged in services across the region and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCS |
| | | | 15 AP Network Chris Owen | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will devise and deliver 5 pilots for a QA programme for Alternative Provision settings. |



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| | | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will organise at least 3 meetings of the network. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs, with at least 50% attending each meeting. By end Mar 26 we will publish an interim evaluation of the pilots and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCS |
| | | | 17 SEND expertise Jo McSherrie/ Sheelagh Sullivan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will publish one exemplar topic pack. By end Mar 26, we will organise 3 meetings of the community of practice, including representatives from health services, specialist teaching services, schools (special and mainstream By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE areas, with at least 50% attending each meeting. By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCS By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme for 2026-27, including anticipated impacts on outcomes for CYP |
| | | | 18 Decision Technology Nick King | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Dec 25, we will publish the proof of concept for the proposed banding tool. By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCS By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme for 2026-27, including anticipated impacts on some or all of the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % reduction in time from school request to LA triage decision % of cases where triage decisions match expert panel review % decrease in referrals escalated unnecessarily |



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|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % reduction in variation of response across schools or localities • Number and quality of triage data reports generated. • % of users (schools, LA officers) rating triage process as helpful or clear • Estimated cost per triaged request vs traditional process. • Number of refinements made to the triage model during PoC |
| | | | 19 Co-production Sheelagh Sullivan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end Mar 26, we will identify at least 2 examples of regional good practice and share at SEND regional forums. 2. By end month year, we will organise/hold 2 meetings. 3. By end month year, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs, and involved representatives from regional partners in SEND, including CYP. 4. By end Mar 26, we will publish a “state of the region” report summarising the current position including any barriers to progress and ideas for improvement and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSSs |
| | | | 20 Mainstream Inclusion Marian Cullen | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end Mar 26, we will deliver a regional inclusion tool that supports the establishment of Inclusion communities of practice in local areas. 2. By end Mar 26, we will organise 2 meetings of a regional community of practice to include partners in SEND, as well as schools, settings, young people and LA. 3. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE areas, with at least 50% attending each meeting. 4. By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSSs |



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| | | | | 5. By end Mar 26, we will have planned a regional celebration of best inclusion practice that will be held in the summer term 26. The celebration will include an awards ceremony. Judging will be completed by the end of March 26. |
| | | | 21 SENDAP Chris Owen | 1. By end Mar 26, we will publish the learning from 4 projects which explore suitable s.19 placements |
| | | | 22 YJ/SLT Mac Heath | 1. By end Mar 26, we will publish a plan for an evidence-based method for identifying and supporting CYP with unrecognised and/or undiagnosed needs who are on the edge of the criminal justice system, including: - receiving the right speech and language interventions - receiving the right SEND interventions 2. By end Dec25, we will establish a steering group for the project including MKC, TVP, SLT and SEND specialists. 3. By end Mar 26, we will produce a plan for implementation and roll-out across the 9 LAs within the Thames Valley Police area |
| SEND Targeted Support In addition to the delivery of section 3 above, this section (4) creates an option to support improvement in specific areas of practice for LAs within the region where there are strong LAs able and willing to provide the required support. This support should be in line | 4.1 | Deliver packages of targeted improvement support to individual Local Authorities | Project 33 Chris Baird/Claire Woodcock | 1. By end Sep 25, we will publish a prospectus for the SE targeted support programme, covering both giving and receiving specialist help. 2. By end Mar 26, we will deliver 12 SEND targeted support packages to individual LAs within the region, 3. By end Mar 26, we have engaged with all 19 LAs, either as potential donors or recipients (or both) of help 4. By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation and share this with SEND strategic leads and SE DCSs |
| | 4.2 | Deliver the designed Targeted Support packages. Ensure delivery is available to every LA in the region. | | |
| | 4.3 | Regularly liaise with the Department and LGA regarding targeted support packages | | |



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| with reform priorities. | | | | |
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| Requirements | | | RIIA Proposals | |
|---|---------|---|---|--|
| Core Requirements | SoR Ref | Sub-Requirement Detail | Planned activity to meet requirement | Key Performance Indicator (KPI) |
| CSC Data Capacity and Capability To support the better use of data by individual LAs and as a collective region as an enabler to CSC service improvement. | 5.1 | Continue to collect and report on the core children's services indicators. | Project No 1 Luke Ede | 1. By end of Mar 26, we will deliver the quarterly and annual CSC benchmark reports for the RIIA, Peer Challenge, Early Help, and Adoption datasets. 2. By end of Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs in both data collection and workshop participation. 3. By end of Mar 26, we will organise/hold 3 meetings of the data managers network and 3 meetings of Insights & Trends workshops. |
| | 5.2 | Develop data collection and analytical expertise and experience within the RIIA that can collect and utilise local and regional CSC data to identify regional trends, outliers and issues both quantitatively and qualitatively. | | |
| CSC Regional Diagnostics To support the identification of issues in CSC provision within LAs and across the region. | 6.1 | Design a delivery strategy for Regional Diagnostics. The aim of the diagnostics should be to review area(s) of CSC performance within LAs of the region and area(s) of performance across the region as a whole. | Project 3 DCS self-assessment and peer challenge Richard Tyndall | 1. By end Mar 26, we will deliver 6 triad/quartet self-assessment and peer challenge events. 2. By end Nov 25, we will circulate the Peer Challenge Data Sets following publication of Q2 benchmarks. 3. By end Mar 26, we will have identified potential targeted support projects for the targeted support team to consider, or referral to other national or regional support programmes. 4. By end Mar 26, we will publish regional improvement priorities as identified in the peer challenge sessions |
| | 6.2 | Deliver the designed Regional Diagnostics. Ensure delivery is available to every LA in the region. | | |
| | 6.3 | Collate and share headline learnings from the Regional Diagnostics with LAs and across the region to inform continuous improvement and sharing of good practice. Liaise with the CIB to share learning from Regional Diagnostics. | | |
| | 6.4 | Ensure the programme informs and aligns with the RIIAs CSC | | |



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| | | Targeted Support offer (section 8 of the Statement of Requirements). | | |
| | 6.5 | Ensure the Regional Diagnostics informs, aligns with and supports other resources / programmes, | | |
| CSC Universal Improvement To support CSC improvement need(s) for all LAs within the region. | 7.1 | Design and deliver activity to drive improvement across the region on an identified regional CSC priority (or priorities). LAs identify and respond to extra-familial harms, child sexual abuse (in response to IICSA) and domestic violence under | 5 TYP Mark Evans | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end Mar 26, 40 SE delegates will have completed leadership development opportunities across the four programmes, and these delegates will be drawn from at least 15 SE LAs, and at least 3 of these delegates will have secured AD appointments. 2. By end Mar 26, we will have delivered a “Leading in Partnership” programme with delegates from LAs, statutory and third sector partners. 3. By end Mar 26, we will publish an evaluation of the programmes offered and share this with SE DCSs 4. By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme of further leadership development for 2026-27, |
| | 7.2 | Ensure that the activity for 7.1. is based on, or considers, the principles and recommendations set out in Practice Guides. | 6 CSC workforce Mark Evans | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end Dec 25, we will publish the findings of the Big Conversation Research (Survey and Focus Groups) to inform the future development of workforce support in the region, and share this with SE DCSs 2. By end Mar 26, we will support full compliance with the SE MoC to keep agency social worker pay under control (measured via SE Agency Dash Board) |
| | | | 16 Transformation Rebecca Eligon | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By end Dec 25, we will publish a “state of the region” report assessing the relative readiness of each participating LA to implement the CSC national framework. 2. By end Mar 26, we will organise 3 meetings of the network. 3. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs, with at least 50% attending each meeting. |
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| | | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation and share the results with SE DCSs By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme for 2026-27, including anticipated impacts on outcomes for CYP |
| | 7.3 | Establish, or further develop, a regional community of practice for children's social care improvement. | <p>24 Widening community involvement in Fostering</p> <p>Rebecca Eligon</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will map practice, convene a codesign group, develop legally compliant costed models, design a QA approach. By end Mar 26, we will publish qualitative feedback from foster carers, host LA/s and children. By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme for 2026-27, including the publication of an invest-to-save business case |
| | 7.4 | All activity should work in collaboration with stakeholders and regional partners to facilitate strong regional partnerships for example with police, health leaders and education leaders. Regions should also consider the role of voluntary and community services in delivering improvements. | <p>25 Adoption for SW</p> <p>Rebecca Eligon</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will deliver an online training programme for case-holding social workers about adoption and early permanence. By end Mar 26, we will publish a business case for testing models in year two, including a project implementation plan By end Mar 26, we will publish KPIs for year two covering: number of people recruited, number of volunteers vs paid, survey feedback from people recruited and foster carers, % breakdown among foster carers with and without this support. |
| | | | <p>26 Kinship co-production</p> <p>Rebecca Eligon</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end Mar 26, we will deliver a regional template for the co-production of a local Kinship Care offer. By end Mar 26, we will have engaged with all 19 SE LAs, both staff and kinship carers, with at least 50% of the areas contributing to the preparation of the template By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation and share it with the SE Kinship Care Network By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme for 2026-27, including anticipated impacts on outcomes for CYP |

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| | | | 27 Business case for Kinship Connected Rebecca Eligon | 1. By end Mar 26, we will deliver a business case for deployment of Kinship Connected and share it with the SE Kinship Network |
| | | | 28 Pilot for Kinship Reach Rebecca Eligon | 1. By end Mar 26, we will deliver a pilot deployment of Kinship Reach 2. By end Mar 26, we will publish an interim evaluation and share it with the SE Kinship Network 3. By end Mar 26, we will receive positive expressions from over 70% of the participants. 4. By end Mar 26, we will publish a programme for 2026-27, including anticipated impacts on outcomes for CYP |
| CSC Targeted Support To support CSC improvement need(s) for specific LAs within the region. | 8.1 | Design and develop criteria and a process, agreed across the region's local authorities, through which packages of targeted support can be delivered to individual LAs. | 33 Targeted support Chris Baird/Claire Woodcock | 1. By end Sep 25, we will publish a prospectus for the SE targeted support programme, covering both giving and receiving specialist help. 2. By end Mar 26, we will deliver 3 CSC targeted support packages to individual LAs within the region, 3. By end month year, we have engaged with all 19 LAs, either as potential donors or recipients (or both) of help 4. By end month year, we will publish an interim evaluation and share this with SE DCSs |
| | 8.2 | Deliver the designed Targeted Support packages. | | |
| | 8.3 | Regularly liaise with the Department and LGA regarding targeted support packages to ensure co-ordinated and coherent arrangements are in place locally and regionally to deliver improvements and address challenges. | | |

Appendix 5

SESLI Programme proposed budget 2025-26 including RIIA Grant

| Income | | 25-26 DfE Grant | | SESILIP | 25-26 | | | Notes |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| | | CSC | SEND | | Sub-total | Sub-total | Totals | |
| | DfE-data | 80,000 | 160,000 | | | 240,000 | | |
| | DfE-diagnostic | 60,800 | 76,000 | | | 136,800 | | |
| | DfE-universal-projects | 200,000 | 400,000 | | 600,000 | | | |
| | DfE-universal-management | 0 | 200,000 | | 200,000 | | | |
| | DfE-universal-total | | | | | 800,000 | | |
| | DfE-targeted | 90,121 | 370,200 | | | 460,321 | | |
| | DfE RIIA Grant | | | | | | 1,637,121 | |
| | C/f-earmarked for SEND | | | 92,314 | 92,314 | | | |
| | C/f-loW small package | | | 20,572 | 20,572 | | | |
| | C/f-BGM research | | | 21,060 | 21,060 | | | |
| | C/f-unrestricted | | | 50,178 | 50,178 | | | |
| | Total Carry Forward | | | | | 184,124 | | |
| | SE subs | | | 165,500 | | 165,500 | | |
| | SESILIP Funds | | | | | | 349,624 | |
| | Total In | 430,921 | 1,206,200 | 349,624 | | | 1,986,745 | |
| | % of DfE Grant | 26% | 74% | | | | | |
| | % of SESLI Programme | 22% | 61% | 17% | | | | |

| No. | Expenditure | 25-26 DfE Grant | | SESILIP | 25-26 | | | Notes |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | CSC | SEND | | Sub-total | Sub-total | Totals | |
| 1 | Data Benchmarking | 80,000 | 160,000 | | | 240,000 | | Paid to ESCC |
| | Data Benchmarking | | | | | | 240,000 | |
| 2 | SEND CoConv 10@7,600 | | 76,000 | | | 76,000 | | Chris Baird |
| | PChall 1xQuartet@12,800 | 12,800 | | | 12,800 | | | |
| | PChall 5 x Triads @£9,600 | 48,000 | | | 48,000 | | | |
| 3 | DCS Peer Challenge | | | | | 60,800 | | Richard Tyndall |
| | Diagnostics | | | | | | 136,800 | |
| 4 | SEND Residential W/F | | 84,000 | | 84,000 | | | RCC/West Sussex |
| 5 | Take Your Place | 25,000 | 75,000 | | 100,000 | | | Mark Evans |
| | Staff Development | | | | | 184,000 | | |
| 6 | Workforce matters, MoC | 16,250 | | | 16,250 | | | Mark Evans |
| 7 | SEND Workforce part 1 | | 45,000 | | 45,000 | | | Sheelagh Sullivan |
| | Workforce | | | | | 61,250 | | |
| 8 | SEND Strategic Leads | | | | | | | Sheelagh Sullivan |
| 9 | SEND Ops Leads | | | | | | | Sheelagh Sullivan |
| 10 | PfA post-16 Network | | | | | | | Julie Pointer |
| 11 | DCO/DMO Network | | | | | | | Sheelagh Sullivan |
| 12 | SEND Forum | | | | | | | Sheelagh Sullivan |
| 13 | CYP Regional Network | | | | | | | Julie Pointer |
| 14 | Not used | | | | | | | - |
| 15 | AP network part 1 | | 21,000 | | 21,000 | | | Chris Owen |
| 16 | Transformation Network | 35,000 | | | 35,000 | | | Rebecca Eligon |
| | Communities of Practice | | | | | 122,000 | | |
| 17 | SEND expertise | | 30,000 | | 30,000 | | | Jo McSherrrie |
| 18 | Decision technology part 1 | | 30,000 | | 30,000 | | | Nick King |
| 19 | Coproduction part 1 | | 18,000 | | 18,000 | | | Sheelagh Sullivan |



| No. | Expenditure | 25-26 DfE Grant | | | 25-26 | | | Notes |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | CSC | SEND | | Sub-total | Sub-total | Totals | |
| 20 | Regional Inclusion part 1 | | 50,000 | | 50,000 | | | Marian Cullen |
| 21 | SENDAP part 1 | | 26,000 | | 26,000 | | | Chris Owen |
| 22 | YJ/SLT part 1 | | 44,875 | | 44,875 | | | Carly Murphy MKC |
| 23 | Not used | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Widening Fostering involvement | 45,500 | | | 45,500 | | | Rebecca Eligon |
| 25 | Adoption training for SW | 45,500 | | | 45,500 | | | via RAAs |
| 26 | Co-production Kinship part 1 | 15,000 | | | 15,000 | | | Rebecca Eligon |
| 27 | Bus. case Kinship connected | 6,000 | | | 6,000 | | | Rebecca Eligon |
| 28 | Kinship Reach part 1 | 28,500 | | | 28,500 | | | Rebecca Eligon |
| | New Universal Projects | | | | | 308,750 | | |
| 29 | SEND Prog Mgr & support | | 72,000 | | 72,000 | | | Sheelagh Sullivan |
| 30 | SESLIP Prog Manager | 7,700 | 21,350 | | 29,050 | | | £35,000 split |
| 31 | Website | 550 | 1,525 | | 2,075 | | | £2,500 split |
| 32 | KCC Overhead | 5,500 | 15,250 | | 20,750 | | | £25,000 split |
| | Universal pm | | | | | 123,875 | | |
| | Universal | | | | | | 800,000 | |
| | Targeted scheme mgt | 27,037 | 111,060 | | 138,097 | | | |
| | CSC 3 packages@21,028 | 63,084 | | | 63,084 | | | |
| | SEND 12 packages@21,595 | | 259,140 | | 259,140 | | | |
| 33 | Targeted Support | | | | | 460,321 | | Chris Baird |
| | Targeted | | | | | | 460,321 | |
| 34 | Adoption | | | 11,500 | | 11,500 | | Rebecca Eligon |
| 35 | Commissioners | | | 18,000 | | 18,000 | | Chris Baird |
| 36 | Early Help | | | 9,500 | | 9,500 | | Rebecca Eligon |
| 37 | Fostering | | | 9,500 | | 9,500 | | Rebecca Eligon |
| 38 | Kinship care | | | 9,500 | | 9,500 | | Rebecca Eligon |
| 39 | Principal Social Workers | | | 12,000 | | 12,000 | | Jenny Boyd |
| 40 | Quality Assurance | | | 15,000 | | 15,000 | | Kevin Kasaven |
| 41 | AD Safeguarding | | | 18,000 | | 18,000 | | Mark Evans |
| 42 | Education | | | 18,000 | | 18,000 | | Chris Owen |
| 43 | Lead Members | | | 7,500 | | 7,500 | | Helen Watson |
| 44 | Fostering rewards offers | | | 30,000 | | 30,000 | | BFC/LAFSE |
| 45 | IoW Targeted Support | | | 20,572 | | 20,572 | | Chris Baird |
| 46 | CYP and Continuing Care | | | 35,000 | | 35,000 | | Sue Kocaman |
| 47 | QA phase 2 | | | 30,000 | | 30,000 | | Kevin Kasaven |
| 48 | BGM phase 1 | | | 22,000 | | 22,000 | | Kevin Kasaven |
| 49 | SE ADCS Rooms | | | 25,000 | | 25,000 | | Richard Tyndall |
| | SESLIP Prog Manager | | | 5,950 | | 5,950 | | £35,000 split |
| | Website | | | 425 | | 425 | | £2,500 split |
| | KCC Overhead | | | 4,250 | | 4,250 | | £25,000 split |
| | Total SESLIP own funds | | | | | | 296,697 | |
| | SEND – SE 19 c/f | | | | | | | |
| | Unrestricted c/f | | | | | 47,927 | 47,927 | |
| | Total Out | 430,921 | 1,206,200 | 349,624 | | 1,986,745 | 1,986,745 | |
| | Total In | 430,921 | 1,206,200 | 349,624 | | | 1,986,745 | |

