

SESLIP Education Network
South-East Access to Education (A2E) Group
Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the South-East A2E Group is to provide a forum for colleagues from SESLIP LAs to address issues associated with the LA role to oversee access to education, including for children missing education, specifically:

- School attendance
- Addressing persistent school absence and severe absence
- School suspensions and exclusions
- LA duties under section 19 Education Act 1996 and mental health absences
- Reduced / part-time / re-integration timetables that go beyond 6 weeks
- Elective home education and de-registration
- Children missing education and off-rolling
- Quality assurance of unregistered alternative provision, fair access processes and informal school moves (a form of exclusion)
- Child employment and entertainment licensing.

The Group reports to and is accountable to the SESLIP Education Network and works closely with the SESLIP Education Data subgroup, in particular with summary data relating to groups of children and young people of relevance to our scope. The group will work closely with any Alternative Provision group to liaise about shared agendas and to collate and learn from data.

2. Key priorities

The Group will:

- Examine the extent of the issues and current solutions/good practice that LAs in the South-East are employing to address these that fall within the scope of the Group.
- Advise on extending the range of indicators, their definitions and updating data that will feature in a SE Education Dashboard (currently CME and EHE)
- Consider where there are weaknesses and gaps in current arrangements and policies or other pressures that could result in children being inappropriately off-rolled and not accessing suitable education
- Engage with and seek to influence policy makers and consider national policy and reports
- Establish and develop a shared directory of good practice, guidance documents, protocols, etc, that will be made available on SESLIP website

- Make recommendations for joint policies and protocols on improving access to education to the SESLIP Education Network, including ones for possible adoption across SE local authorities.

3. Outputs and impacts

These will include:

- A set of indicators that will inform strategies to improve access to education across SE England and the exercise of LA statutory responsibilities for children;
- Sharing of local practice / case studies and protocols and processes that LAs should consider in order to actively improve access to education, alternative provision and increase learning opportunities and inclusion
- Contribute to service improvement and change for children within scope of the SENDAP and inclusion agenda of the DfE, including section 19 arrangements and supporting inclusion in mainstream settings.

4. Membership and administration

- Membership of the Group will comprise officers from every South East LAs who lead on these areas of work who are nominated by their AD Education representative.
- The Group will meet at least once per term.
- The Network is co-chaired by ADs nominated by the Education Network. Presently co-chairs are: the Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion (Hampshire County Council) and the Service Director of Education and SEND (Wokingham Council).
- SESLIP will be responsible for co-ordinating and minuting the meetings in and arranging dates and venues for meetings.
- Updates will be presented to the SESLIP Education Network and, where appropriate, to the SE Directors of Children's Services.