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| **Preparing for Adulthood regional network** | | | | |
| **Date:** | 23rd July 2025 | | | |
| **Chairs:** | **Amanda Percy – Portsmouth City Council, Simon Brown – Chichester College** | | | |
| **Venue:** | Teams – **link to the transcript and recording is** [**here**](Recap:%20PfA%20SE%20network%2023%20July%20|%20Meeting%20|%20Microsoft%20Teams) | | | |
| **Attendees:** | | | | |
| Amanda Percy | | Jo Dixon – Transition RBWM |  |  |
| Simon Brown | | Julie Lambert – East Sussex CC |  |  |
| Malcom Reeves – Whole School SEND | | Louise Saunders - NSEF |  |  |
| Shallon Smith – Portsmouth City | | Jo Campbell – East Kent College |  |  |
| Deborah Copeland – Hampshire CC | |  |  |  |
| Kelly Hull – East Sussex CC | |  |  |  |
| Liz Wilson – Sparsholt College | |  |  |  |
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| **Notes** | | | | |
| **1.** **Introductions & Welcome**  Simon welcomed attendees and Julie and Simon welcomed Louise from NSEF. We acknowledged that attendance was low due to many colleagues being on summer holidays. | | | | |
| **2. National Updates**   1. **Julie Pointer**  * **PfA Network Page** now live on the Seslep website. Link is [here](file:///C:\Julie%20Work%20stuff\SE%2019\PfA%20Meeting%20May%2025\here) resources will be posted following the meeting. * **Internships Work** entering its fourth year with new resources and action plan. Link is [here](file:///C:\Julie%20Work%20stuff\SE%2019\PfA%20Meeting%20May%2025\Internships%20Work:%20Advice%20Pack%20for%20Local%20Authorities%20-%20NDTi) * **Inclusion in Practice** webinar discussed positive inclusion in schools. Early evidence report is [here](https://inclusioninpractice.org.uk/report/) * **Disabled Children’s Partnership** campaign ['Fight for Ordinary'](https://disabledchildrenspartnership.org.uk/fight-for-ordinary/) highlighted. * PhD Publication by Wickham Bosworth on [supported internships](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/wykeham-bosworth-nightingale_supportedinternships-phdresearch-socialinclusion-activity-7352003275308638208-oRvB?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&rcm=ACoAAASH004BAImst67w4Ik2JjKQH_aFN7vFv_4). Call to DfE for more research and evidence on SI’s * SE Regional Young Person’s Network in development as part of the RIIA work. Email Julie at [julie.pointer@ndti.org.uk](mailto:julie.pointer@ndti.org.uk) if you would like to be involved. More to be shared at next meeting  1. **Update from Amanda Percy on Change Programme – White Paper due out in the Autumn, focus on inclusion and mainstream. Portsmouth have been looking at what they can do:**  * Focus on Inclusion and Lifestyle in Portsmouth. * Recruitment for a Post-16 Inclusion Advisor underway. * Emphasis on short-term opportunities to impact inclusion.   **We agreed it would be good to have a broader update at the next meeting**   1. **Malcom Reeve – WSS – Slide below**  * Year 4 of the Universal SEND Services Contract underway. * Community Join-Up Projects launched in all 9 DfE regions. * South East Group to focus on transitions from school to post-16. * National group to explore Inclusion and Belonging in mainstream settings. * Regional meetings now set up for SE 25th September, 4th December and 5th Feb. **Please let Malcom know if you would like to attend.** | | | | |
| **3. Louise Saunders – National SEND Employment Forum. Louise updated the group on the work of NSEF and the conversations they have been having with DWP regarding the Access to Work challenges. Slides attached.**   * NCEF now has 250+ members**.** * **Challenges with Access to Work** and reduction in claimable weeks. NSEF have submitted a series of questions from members and are awaiting responses. * **Positive engagement with DfE on Maths & English funding flexibility.** * **Employer Ambassador Training** available via DFN Project Search as part of the Internships Work programme. **Julie advised we are awaiting a list of employer ambassadors that can be shared with LA’s to support their employer engagement.**   **NSEF are welcoming new members and if you would like to join please email Louise –** [**louise.saunders@nationalgrid.com**](mailto:louise.saunders@nationalgrid.com) | | | | |
| **4.**  **Pan-Berkshire SEND Employment Forum (Jo Dixon)**   * New initiative to unite six Berkshire LAs for shared SEND employment strategy. * Aim to pool resources and employers across borders. * DfE supportive of the model, which is already happening in West London and the Black Country   **Amanda requested that we feed back once the forum has started.** | | | | |
| **5.**  **Discussion: Local Authorities as Employers**   * Emphasis on LA responsibility to model inclusive employment. * Examples from Portsmouth and [Castle School](https://www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk/page/?title=World+of+Work&pid=99) shared. * Importance **of job coaches, social value partners, and commissioning ethics highlighted.**   **Supported Apprenticeships**   * **Examples from East Sussex and Essex discussed.** * **Interest in comparing outcomes between internships and apprenticeships. Suggested as an agenda item** | | | | |
| 6. **Transition Challenges**   * Concerns raised about EHCPs and specialist providers influencing placements. * Issues with delayed or misaligned transitions and tribunal cases. * Need for early planning and quality assurance.   **Agenda item for September meeting** | | | | |
| **7. Planning for Next Year**   * **Julie to send out a poll to determine best meeting dates/times.** * **September meeting to focus on transition outcomes.** * **Encourage broader representation from colleges and schools.** | | | | |
| **Action Summary**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Action Item** | **Owner** | **Deadline** | | Share PfA Network resources and links | Julie Pointer | With minutes | | Invite Sarah Christopher to next meeting | Amanda Percy | September | | Share Whole School SEND slides | Malcolm Reeve | With minutes | | Share NCEF slides and training links | Julie Pointer | With minutes | | Update on Pan-Berkshire Forum | Jo Dixon | Next meeting | | Provide data on supported apprenticeships | Kelly Hull | Next meeting | | Send poll for 2025–26 meeting dates | Julie Pointer | August | | Add transition outcomes to September agenda | Amanda & Julie | September | | | | | |
| **AOB**   * **No AOB** | | | | |
| **25th September 10 – 12 on Teams. Link is** [**here**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Njg1NzNlNjctYzBmZS00Y2NkLTlhMDgtMzdhODM2N2MwYTg0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2251b8cdb9-ebb0-4a74-8e67-d1cc46223de7%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2231236b1e-940b-47e7-8b27-1023c65e03c5%22%7d) | | | | |