# South East region Principal Social Workers Network

# Terms of Reference

**Purpose**

To provide peer support and a practice, policy and strategic forum for Principal Social Workers across the South East region.

**Priorities and principles**

The Regional Network has adopted the priorities and principles set by the National Principal Social Worker Network:

**Priorities:**

**Workforce**

Well-being of practitioners, conditions to support retention and recruitment, recruitment of international workforce and how we can support them effectively, equipping the workforce with the right conditions, practice.

**Transitions**

Ensuring the transition of young people across services as they develop into adulthood how they receive the right support at the right time with a shared understanding of needs.

**Allyship**

Learn from people who are ahead in terms of this within their Local Authorities, how can we set the standards and model inclusivity in term of all areas.

**Social care reforms**

Reforms to social care, impact it has on our local authorities at a localised level but also the key themes for best practice that can be shared within the national landscape- sharing ideas as to how elements of the reforms are being implemented- share best practice- key elements of the reform family first, kinship, working together, national framework and stable homes built on love.

**Principles:**

* We are one network/voice – we want to share and work together- with our values reflecting principles of Inclusivity, Allyship, United Voice, co production and collaboration.
* We wish to hear from the expertise in the network and share learning. Lived and learnt experience coming together – strengthen co-production.
* We will demonstrate role generosity across local authority boundaries.

**Core functions**

* To share and develop good social work and social care practice
* To provide regional and national policy and strategic updates
* To communicate and collaborate with the South East region DCS group via SESLIP and the national Principal Social Worker network
* To respond to regional and national practice and policy initiatives and consultations
* To lead projects as agreed with South East region DCS group via SESLIP
* To suggest projects to SESLIP/DCS group
* To contribute to achieving and maintaining consistency in shaping the social work and social care workforce, particularly in response to the local government reform agenda and social care reforms

**Membership**

**DCS Sponsor:** Lara Patel

**Chair:** Annelies Henshall

**Vice Chair:** Katie Smee-Giles

**Members:** all Principal Social Workers across the South East region are automatically members of the Network and have access to the South East Sector Local Improvement Partnership (SESLIP) website.

**SESLIP Facilitator:** Jenny Boyd

**Meetings**

**Frequency:** 8 weekly/bi-monthly, dates to be set for 1 year.

Sub-regional and/or project group meetings will be arranged outside full Network meetings, under the umbrella of the full Network, at a time convenient to all sub-group members. Any issues or topics of interest relevant to the full Network will be brought to the next scheduled full Network meeting and vice versa. Updates from any sub-regional meetings will be given to each full Network meeting by the sub-regional chairs.

**Length:** 2.5 hours

**Method:** Virtual, with the potential to hold occasional face to face meetings as agreed by the group. Venue if required to be arranged via SESLIP (Jenny Boyd).

* Forward plan of key issues and topics for discussion to be agreed at the first meeting of the new fiscal year
* Agenda items to be sent to Jenny Boyd at least 1 week before the meeting and agenda to be circulated in advance of the meeting by Jenny Boyd.
* Meetings will be chaired either by the Network Chair or Vice Chair.
* Decisions to be made by consensus.
* Decisions, key points of information and action points to be recorded and circulated to all members, whether present or not, by Jenny Boyd

**Quoracy:** Either Chair or Vice Chair to be in attendance. If any key decisions are made, then at least 50% of potential members should also be in attendance.

**Review:** Annually, at the first meeting in the new fiscal year