

AD EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING

27th June 2025

Meeting notes

Present: Sarah Daly (Portsmouth, chair), Mike Stoneman (Portsmouth CC), Natalie Smith (Hants), Marie Denny (MKC), Ming Zhang (Wokingham), Katie Ridgway (ESCC), Naomi Carter (IoW), Julia Katherine (Surrey), Michelle Stanley (Kent), Claire Hayes & Sarah Clark (WSCC), Georgina Clarke-Green (BHCC), Gareth Drawmer (Bucks),

Apologies: Michael Jarrett (Bucks), Elizabeth Funge (ESCC), Neil Goddard (W Berks), Christine McInnes (Kent), Clive Haines (RBWM), Clodagh Freeston (Southampton), Kim Wilson (Oxfordshire), Marie Denny (MKC), Duane Chappell (BFC).

In attendance: Paul Schofield and Catherine Turton (DfE Regions office)

Topic	Action
<p>1. RISE: update and developing a strategic & collaborative approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul and Caroline were welcomed. And presented an update about RISE developments from the DfE, with an emphasis on the universal offer. PS highlighted first roundtable meetings about development of the RISE Regional Plan. The plan will be structured around: attendance, attainment, good Reception and inclusion. It will emphasis impact on these via: signposting, peer-to-peer support and networks / hubs. Commitment to collate a school improvement directory against the 4 themes and to have a two-year plan ready for launch in 'late autumn'. It was noted that there is a point about 'developing enhanced funding support' where there are priorities for support. PS unable to provide further details. SESLIP LAs keen to emphasise that there was a welcome for RISE and a desire to play our part to make it work. Timely communication, clear points of collaboration and sufficient lead-in time to support collation of information are vital enablers of this. Discussion about RISE targeted intervention, informed by the case study and sample 'rules of engagement' developed in Hampshire in collaboration with the RISE team. DfE clarified that targeted intervention cohorts at the moment are drawn only from 2x or 3x RI schools; seen as a historic backlog. Anticipated in the future that there will be a move to a more reactive process that is not just driven by Ofsted judgement. In response to questions about monitoring, the DfE nationally is developing processes and materials about this and will update in due course. Network members were keen to emphasise that good communication at this point in the process was as important as at the start of the intervention. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early communication with LA should be a commitment from the RISE team. Intelligence about existing, on-going support and context and a consistent line of approach and direction are key enablers of effective school improvement. All LAs agreed to draft their own version of the rules of engagement in preparedness for when RISE targeted intervention is planned in their local area. This is welcomed by DfE regions office who committed to pass to RISE advisers with commitment to early communication and engagement with LAs. How will the process of drafting the RISE Regional Plan and priorities be aligned with local / LA planning and priorities? Where are communication / engagement with parents and wider local relationships factored into the RISE targeted intervention? <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All SESLIP Education Network members will draft their own version of the Hants targeted intervention 'rules of engagement' and share with the DfE (and with SESLIP?). 	<p>All PS</p>

Topic	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite Paul Schofield or Kate Dethridge to the September Education Network to discuss specific elements of developing the RISE Regional Plan and universal offer. 	
<p>2. Notes and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes were confirmed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. LG Ombudsman – contact has been made with Evan Lervill and Ming and Chris are meeting him later today. More collaborative approach being signalled by the LG Ombudsman and a practitioner guide about alternative education and SEND is being drafted by the LG Ombudsman; that potentially in September 	CO / MZ
<p>3. Reflections on item 1 and actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network members keen to continue to collaborate with DfE RISE colleagues. Mapping of local eco-system of school improvement support and networks is an aspect that LAs are keen to assist with, provided there is a framework and lead-in time to deliver this. Local rules of engagement to be drafted (see: item 1). Reminder that RISE targeted intervention is with a very small proportion of schools, so should be seen in perspective. <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO to summarise heading points and commitments from today and share with Network members for comment; then to share with DfE Regions team. SD and CO draft key points about strategic direction and planning (between LAs and RISE) to share with DCS Group; raising the value of pro-active engagement with DfE Regions. 	CO SD / CO
<p>4. Joint session with SEND strategic leads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus of the session: ordinarily available provision. Practice and evaluation shared by colleagues from Portsmouth CC. Education Network members appreciated the chance for discussion with SEND Strategic leads on a theme of overlap between the two. There are considerable areas of overlap, so future joint sessions would be valued. Other themes of interest to Network members: peer-to-peer working on topics such as SEN support in an area, post-16 pressures and challenges (SEN support). <u>Actions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO to liaise with Sheelagh about planning for future joint sessions and. CO to reach out to Chris Baird and Sheelagh about Courageous Conversations and extending these to some of the themes above and developing a structure for their moderation. BHCC, Hants, Surrey, Portsmouth all interested in trialling this approach. 	CO CO
<p>5. Local government reorganisation (LGR) and implications for children's services</p> <p>Overview and discussion about the potential challenges of LGR for children's services. The different timescales affecting different areas in the region were highlighted. The experience of Network members who have been involved in strategic workshops is that children's services and implications for schools have at best been a peripheral consideration. This should be raised with LA leaders.</p>	
<p>6. Changes for CME Group and proposals for SESLIP DfE grant:</p> <p>The proposal for the CME Group to be renamed the Access to Education Group was approved by the AD Education Network.</p>	

Topic	Action
<p>In a similar vein, the Network proposes that we drop the 'Assistant Director' from its name as it is a bit of an anachronism and potentially somewhat mis-leading. CO will refer this to SESLIP leadership team and, if cleared, will then edit the Terms of Reference and find out how to alter the SESLIP webpages.</p> <p>The latest iteration of proposed bids for projects to the SESLIP RIIA funding from the DfE were shared and supported. The Network agreed to add oversight of AP to the terms of reference so that the task-and-finish group for AP can report in. Once there is news about whether or not the proposals are to be funded, CO will be in contact about reps for the AP task-and-finish group.</p> <p>In a similar was to item 4, members reiterated areas of overlap between the Education Network and the SE19 network of groups. If these activities are to go ahead, the Network support an arrangement for chairs from the Education Network and SE19 to meet to receive an overview of progress and coordination.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO to publish the updated Access to Education Group terms of reference and to request changes to the Education Network and then actions to change the webpages. • CO to liaise with SE19 coordinator Sheelagh, to progress the idea of a joint chairs meeting: with a focus on the SENDAP activities funded from DfE RIIA grant, once these have been accepted by the DfE. 	<p>CO</p> <p>CO</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . <p><u>Dates of future meetings:</u> 26th September.</p>	