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## THE NATIONAL SEND FORUM MINUTES 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017, 10.30am

**Present:** David Bateson (DB) *Chair*, Rona Tutt (RT) *NAHT*, Ian Hartwright (IH) *NAHT*, Malcolm Reeve (MR) *AET*, David Canning (DC) *BATOD & NATSIP*, Mark Blois (MB) *BrowneJacobson*, Mark Dale-Emberton (MDE) *FLSE*, Penny Barratt (PB) *SSV*, Lucy Hayes (LH) *IPSEA*, Fran Alexander (FA) *PRUsAP*, Brendan Henegan (BH) *engage*, Kiran Hingorani (KH) *SWALLS*, Melanie Foster (MF) *NAS*, Claire Dorer (CD) *NASS*, Lorraine Petersen (LP) *Facilitator*

Minutes taken by Natalie Bambridge (NB)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

DB welcomed members and everyone introduced themselves.  
PB and LP would be joining late.

### 2. Changes in representation, guests and links

None.

### 3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Barry Payne (BP) *FLSE*, Hugh Steele (HS) *FLSE*, Adam Boddison (AB) *NASEN*, Roy O'Shaughnessy (RO) *Shaw Trust*, Julie Walker (JW) *SEN.SE*, Anna Cole (AC) *ASCL*.

### 4. Minutes of last meeting

Page 2: change 'school' to 'LA'.

Item 6: Sarah Lewis has sent out information to each of the Opportunity Areas.

Item 9: MB has provided DB with NGA contacts, DB has not yet made contact.

CD updated the group on the media coverage of using physical restraint within special schools. This was discussed. CD advised guidance will be available in time which will be helpful but not definitive.

#### ***PB joined the meeting***

DB followed up on headship recruitment, stating that statistics show not only is it difficult to recruit leaders nationally but it is harder still to hire headteachers and deputy headteachers within special schools.

The minutes of the last meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017) were agreed. DB to sign following amendments above.

#### ***LP joined the meeting***

### 5. Centre of Expertise workshop

DB spoke to members about how best to make the most of limited funding and LAs now lacking experience and knowledge combined with no single DfE view of SEND strategy. NSENDF needs to

take a positive approach looking at Opportunity Areas, MAT SEND leaders, Free School Agenda, £215 million capital funding, harnessing integrated services to prepare pupils for adulthood, lack of leadership and the encouraging recognition of issues expressed by Sir David Carter (SDC). With such a broad range of expertise, NSEND is a group that could make a difference.

RT stated it is a question of whether to pursue and, if so, how to pursue. RT envisions a national perspective that allows for individual variations, looking at what is already in place and building on that.

MR updated the group about the organisation Whole School SEND. MR became involved in January 2017 to work on a MAT SEND project with 2 main points – firstly to develop a framework MATs could use around inclusion (this is currently in draft form). Secondly, to develop SEND reviewers to enable providers to use a self-evaluation framework for reviewing SEND in schools. Funding has been released for this. CD suggested this provided good opportunities to link with but it seemed to be focused on mainstream schools. MR agreed the focus was more mainstream, but not exclusive. DB gave a brief presentation, suggesting a developing idea of WELL – Wellbeing, Enterprise, Leadership and Learning: an aspirational approach to addressing many of the recurring issues within SEND over the last decades. He provided aims and objectives for the group.

DB opened to members for discussion and the following points and suggestions were raised:

- Map what is happening nationally and identify any gaps.
- All groups within NSEND have experts.
- Are any regions using international models?
- Use of academic research area with expert knowledge e.g. National College of Teaching.
- All LAs are required to review provisions and expenditure – possibility of collating this information to map gaps.
- Push DfE to hold a view on low incidence needs.
- Use of minimum standards to drive up standards.
- Problem with fragmented system – needs to be a more joined up, national approach, research and evidence based regardless of postcode.
- Representation of health and social care.
- Identify outstanding provisions in UK and analyse what they are doing/what makes them outstanding.
- Clarification of school-led system.
- Possible use of mental health strategy as vehicle.
- Possibility of each NSEND organisation to have focus point.
- Possibility of gaining funding or commissioning NSEND to collate and map information to form agreements for future.
- Concerns of time delay waiting for funding.
- Further conversations with SDC.

In terms of moving forward the following suggestions were made:

- Choose an area and offer what NSEND could do in terms of collective expertise.
- The first area should be an area with chances of success.
- The NASS website has a map which could be of use.
- Going back to SDC as LAs may not have health care figures.
- There are many initiatives meaning a risk of missing those not in the Opportunity Areas.
- Compare and question differences of areas doing well vs areas not doing well.
- Possibility of taking on an expert, though this raises an issue of funding.
- Use of Shaw Trust in providing a link.
- Use of Ofsted to provide intelligence.
- Use of IPSEA for parental enquiries, though IPSEA is heavily weighted to the South East.
- Use of Special Needs Jungle to gather information and parental views.
- Consideration of different cultural views.
- Working with specific regional directors who may have an area to research and can disseminate the project back through other regions.
- Avoid duplicating other projects, rather complement them.

CD offered and agreed to create a brief rationale, drawing from other people's definitions.

**ACTION: CD**

DB offered and agreed to pursue academic research and to invite SDC to a meeting for 2017-18.

**ACTION: DB**

It was suggested to invite Dame Christine Lenehan (CL) to the next meeting. PB will be seeing CL soon and would float the idea, but a formal invite would be needed. PB could provide a contact of a civil servant working alongside CL.

LP offered and agreed to map what each LA has available.

**ACTION: LP**

LH offered and agreed to pull together national feedback if it feeds in with Oftsed.

**ACTION: LH**

Suggestions were made regarding funding such as SDC or Sarah Lewis and Opportunity areas. EEF was also suggested, though it was said it can be difficult to gain funding from EEF.

It was suggested to invite a health and social care organisation to join NSEND. MDE offered to look into Association of Directors of Education for suggestions, though it was questioned whether they have an interest in SEND and that SEND leaders do not necessarily come from a SEND background. There are smaller sub-groups who represent good practise, the biggest within LAs is Autism but it is fragmented from the LA providers and not cross regional. It was suggested to contact Barry Carpenter regarding information rather than mapping.

MR suggested the table of special schools gives a lot of basic information, splitting children by primary type need. It should be accurate to January 2017. MR to forward to NB for circulating with minutes.

**ACTION: MR/NB**

LP highlighted the use of SENCOs and independent schools as a source of information as more parents of children with complex needs are paying for education.

DB asked all members to reflect on everything discussed and email him with any further thoughts.

**ACTION: ALL**

**6. NSEND requests of those campaigning in this period of purdah due to the election**

CD said that a lot of SEND work has been put on hold due to the election but it was an opportunity to have a voice as it is a time when politicians are listening. CD suggested the use of Twitter to push MPs.

IH distributed a NAHT leaflet highlighting their 5 election priorities, more details are available on the website. NAHT does not support a particular party, but is making requests to all parties to consider for their mandates.

**7. Policy and DfE update**

Andre Imich attends every other meeting.

LP reminded the group that the Primary Assessment Consultation and Rochford Review Consultation is ongoing until 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 and encouraged all to respond.

**8. Update from members: successes, issues and events**

**NAHT (RT/IH)**

The NAHT annual conference was a success, with both Jeremy Corbyn, Justine Greening and Professor Dame Alison Peacock in attendance.

NAHT are in talks with the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. This is in the early stages and RT will be able to update the group further at the next meeting.

NAHTs Rochford members survey closes on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May allowing IH to respond before the deadline.

**AET (MR)**

MR summarised his earlier update of Whole School SEND – there is interest from DfE, National and Regional Schools Commissioners regarding an inclusion framework for MATs to have their own

review. MR is pleased to have SDC onboard and will bring the framework to a future meeting.

#### **BATOD/NATSIP (DC)**

A new training portal has opened for all involved with children with sensory needs.

BATOD are developing a new website.

The national conference sold out fast, details are on the website.

#### **BrowneJacobson (MB)**

There is a continuing trend in discrimination claims and it is still not clear as to why. It would seem some tribunals could possibly be avoided with proper case management and they are better avoided due to financial and emotional impact.

#### **SSV (PB)**

PB has met with SDC and felt this was positive and similar to his meeting with NSEND. He is onboard and asking to return to further meetings. A meeting is also taking place with civil servants. SSV is working with the Chartered College of Teaching in increasing strength, with permanent jobs now in place.

The Alliance of Inclusion has asked NASEN to write an article, PB will be writing the counter argument.

#### **IPSEA (LH)**

The response for inclusion guidance has been put on hold due to the election.

IPSEA are working on a project with the Legal Education Foundation. They have had input from NSEND members and resource groups and are now helping to get resources designed.

IPSEA are writing to LAs regarding transport as there is a gap in the law for 16-19 entitlement to free transport. Furthermore, they have seen LAs making blanket cuts to transport pre-15 regardless of needs.

IPSEA is looking into the possibility of LAs reducing post-16 education to 3 days without considering pupils needs.

Julie Moktadir is resigning from IPSEA. Denise Murphy is stepping in as interim CEO during the recruitment process.

IPSEA are helping parents with Equality Act Claims, advising concerned parents to follow the Children's and Families Act.

#### **PRUsAP (FA)**

PRUsAP have been considering their purpose in line with changes to alternative provisions and how best to serve these. PRUsAP are hoping to use feedback from the conference.

The PRUsAP conference is being held 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June in Birmingham, hosting a number of speakers.

PRUsAP are considering employing someone in a paid position to bring everything together.

#### **engage (BH)**

Awards are being held on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

The National Creative Awards have had record entries from all over the country this year.

The 2017 conference is being held on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July in Newcastle. The 2018 conference will be held in Cardiff in partnership with SEBDA.

Engage are holding a cycling event in Wales in September.

There has been increasing demand for recruitment and retention of headteachers.

#### **SWALLS (KH)**

SWALLS are developing courses for governors and leaders, KH will send the dates to LP to put on the NSEND website.

#### **ACTION: KH/LP**

SWALLS are promoting action research with funding available for proposals.

#### **NAS (MF)**

As part of their public understanding campaign, NAS has just launched their second phase with a two-minute film showing how everyday situations can be overwhelming for an autistic child.

NAS are currently working with AET to ensure through Initial Teacher Training, as of September 2018 all new teachers will have training in children and young people with autism.

NAS is the secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism which is undertaking an inquiry into education for children and young people on the autistic spectrum in England. The

inquiry is considering the challenge for local authorities, the need for autism expertise in schools and the difference the Children's and Families Act 2014 is making.

NAS currently have six schools with a seventh school due to open in September in Essex/Greater London. These schools support the local community, looking for gaps in LA provisions. NAS work with LAs and health care to give free capacity for health to work in schools. A potential new school could also be being opening in Lambeth.

#### **NASS (CD)**

NASS are holding an event with a new school network for people leading in mainstream who are setting up specialist pre-schools.

Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health are setting up a project, Epilepsy12, looking at how any service will respond to one person having a seizure during school life. CD feels there is value in this project.

NASS are working with Stonewall to make a symbol-based poster. There is currently no symbol for transgender so funding for this has been agreed with Makaton.

#### **9. Update from other affiliations, forums, trusts, alliances and partnerships**

None.

#### **10. NSENDF Website**

LP asked for any events to be emailed to her for putting on the website.

**ACTION: ALL**

#### **11. Any focus for action and statements of agreement**

Actions to follow up under Item 5: Centre of Expertise Workshop.

All to reflect on Centre of Expertise Workshop and email DB with any thoughts.

#### **12. AOB**

DB asked MB if it would be appropriate to buy the BrowneJacobson staff a gift as a token of thanks.

MB felt this would be fine and very much appreciated.

DB thanked MB for the use of the room and thanked everyone for attending.

#### **13. Dates for meetings**

Dates for 2017-18 have been agreed with Browne Jacobson: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The next meeting is to be held 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

#### **14. Venue 2017-18**

The venue for 2017-18 will remain at BrowneJacobson.

**Meeting finished 1.55pm**