



Founded by FLSE. Enabled by FLSE and nasen

**THE NATIONAL SEND FORUM
DRAFT MINUTES 30th January 2019**

Present: David Bateson OBE (DB) *Chair*, Barry Payne (BP) *FLSE*, Chris Rollings (CR) *FLSE*, Kim Taylor (KT) *FLSE*, Lorraine Petersen (LP) *FLSE*, Alex Grady (AG) *nasen*, Rona Tutt OBE (RT) *NAHT*, Melanie Foster (MF) *NAS*, Clare Dorer (CD) *NASS*, Catherine Ollington (CO) *NSN*, Carol Kelsey (CK) *NNPCF*, Brendan Heneghan (BH) *engage*, Steve Cullingford-Agnew (SC-A) *Equals*, Lucy Hayes (LH) *IPSEA*, Caroline Wright (CW) *RCSLT*, David Canning (DC) *BATOD*, Mark Hoda (MH) *Shaw Trust*, Malcolm Reeve (MR) *WSEND*, Steve Pritchard-Jones (SPJ) *PRUsAp*, Mark Blois (MB) *Browne Jacobson*, Kiran Hingorani (KH) *SWALSS*, Penny Barratt (PB) *SSV*, Rani Kaur (RK) *NGA*

Guests: Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner

Minutes: Andy Petersen (AP)

1. Welcome and Introductions

**For
Action**

DB welcomed everyone and asked each attendee to introduce themselves. DB informed the meeting of the recent OBE awarded to BH. The meeting unanimously congratulated BH on his Honour. DB also informed the meeting that Sue Hewitt had been elected as Chair of FLSE.

2. Changes in Representation, Guests and Links

**AP/DB/
MB**

DB welcomed new representatives KT, AR, KH, SPJ, AG, DB informed the meeting that he had received requests from National Association of Hospital Education (NAHE) and The British Institute for Learning Disabilities (BILD) to join the forum. DB explained that, like many other applying organisations they fitted the bill but there were both room size constraints and those of maintaining a size to be able to contribute. Discussion took place about the remit of the group. DB reminded the group that this had been revisited last July. CD asked whether BILD were primarily engaged in adult provision – **DB agreed to find out (at the lunch break, the CEO confirmed that BILD was interested in children too)**. Comment was made that a representative from ASCL had not attended for some time – **MB agreed to contact ASCL to find out whether they wished to remain members** The meeting unanimously agreed to extend membership invitation to NAHE and BILD. **DB requested that AP prepare and send pro-rata invoice for membership fees to NAHE and BILD**

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from *BILD, ASCL, NHS, SEN.se, pdnet, WMSSEND Forum*

4. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Grammatical errors and omissions were highlighted including the omission of RTs contribution!

Matters arising:

Item 5 –Response from DfE to NSENDf funding letter to Chancellor. General discussion about the unsatisfactory nature of the response. CD commented that she felt that the response was disrespectful. **DB agreed to prepare a “response to the response” and forward this to Andre Imich.** General Minutes: **The meeting extended its thanks to Ann Payne for her work on minute taking at the last meeting.**

DB

BP

5. Policy and DfE Update (AI)

This is a standing item, AI attends alternate meetings. The following issues were discussed:

1. The increase in pension costs to schools arising in September 2019. Consultation closing on 12th February 2019.
2. The new OFSTED consultation which was taking place on how Ofsted inspects schools, early years settings and further education and skills providers, to take effect from September 2019.
3. Engagement Profile – PB advised that SSV had attended a consultation meeting with DfE where the feedback had been generally negative. However it appeared that DfE were still intending to implement the profile. KT advised that some schools were using the profile and felt that there were some positive aspects. PB advised that the schools would have a statutory duty to report on their findings. CR commented that the profile was not seen by teachers as user- friendly and queried whether NSENDf should do something in connection with it. PB commented that the profile conflicted with the teacher workload agenda. **The meeting agreed that DB should include this topic on the next agenda for discussion with AI. KT, CR and PB agreed to prepare a short paper of the pros and cons of the Engagement Profile and the implications of its implementation in advance of AI's visit to the next Forum.**
4. The meeting debated the difficulties surrounding forecasting school placements.
5. Discussions ensued about commissioning. **DB was asked to include points on the agenda for AI on Joint Funding, naming schools on EHCPs and the progress for training and the availability of Mental Health practitioners.** DB commented that NAHT were leading a funding campaign and asked RT if there had ben further developments.

DB,KT,
CR, PB

DB

6. Ofsted framework consultation

KH related to the meeting that a recent SWALSS conference presentation had been encouraging: there was more focus on curriculum intent and development, greater freedoms for schools and less focus on data. The mood of the conference had been generally optimistic.

PB commented that training had already begun and was starting to be embedded. LP commented that the new framework would be more helpful for inclusive mainstream schools.

DB agreed to invite representatives from OFSTED to attend a future meeting, noting that the Fdiscussion broadly welcomed the consultation. **DB suggested that each individual organisation needed to prepare their own responses to the consultation.**

DB

All

Consultation Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y9xus74j>

7. UCL report expected January 2019 (CD). Implications for NSENDf research into RCEs.

DB outlined for new members the history behind this as it relates to the Forum and Prof Ben Laker’s donation for research. RT, CD and DB had agreed a focus on Regional Centres of Expertise, part of which would relate to the national picture in respect of SEND and its provision. Work had been delayed to avoid overlap or unnecessary duplication with the UCL work.

MR was able to talk to this as yet unpublished research due to his Whole School SEND role:

- The report collated existing national data sets on the identification of SEND children and was due to be published in September but had been delayed.
- MR emphasised that this was the first time that such data had been collated.
- It would highlight the situation at regional, LA and national levels.

LP enquired how the dataset was to be used to influence government. DB suggested that the Forum needed to read the document to ascertain this. CD commented that NASS had undertaken mapping exercise but UCL had a broader reach. MR amplified this by highlighting that there would be a tour undertaken by himself and Amelia Roberts to meet with each of the WSSSEND regional leads to discuss the implications of the data for each region. MR agreed to share the results of the project with the Forum. DB suggested that MR could be part of the working group examining the work to be undertaken with Prof. Laker's grant. **DB agreed to contact Prof. Laker to explain the latest position on the grant to him.**

DB

LP agreed to send a link to the report to members as soon as it became available

LP

8. Dominic Herrington (DH), National Schools Commissioner

This item was moved to 2.00 pm - A presentation was made by DH followed by questions from members. DB thanked DH for attending.

9. Update from members: successes, issues and events- All

NASS are hosting a conference on May 1st on Adverse Childhood Experience

<https://www.nassschools.org.uk/upcoming-events/page/2/>

CD requested that NSENDF members circulate details to their members

ALL

SWALSS were also planning a Deputies/Assistant Heads Conference on May 2/3 and a Governors Conference on May 15/16

WSSSEND – Programme Board minutes were now available on the nasen SEND Gateway

<https://www.sendgateway.org.uk/whole-school-send/> A new initiative was also being launched – The “Every leader a leader of SEND” project will focus on ensuring that all school leaders are equipped to understand and demonstrate how inclusive their school is. An Expert Reference Group led by Challenger MAT CEO Stephen Chamberlain will convene from January to develop a suite of inclusion indicators and guidance for those line managing SENCOs to support the SENCO to have maximum impact in the role. <https://tinyurl.com/y9bje8y3>

SSV commented on the financial pressures faced by schools and the growing incursion of health issues. PB felt that Social Services should have more clinical accountability.

RCSLT – An event will be held shortly to launch “Giving Voice to Bercow: Ten Years On”. More research was being undertaken with parents on support for SLCN and a webinar was due to be held on 20th March on “Putting children young people and their parent carers at the centre of decision-making”. The Forum agreed to support a letter from RCSLT and ICAN to the Prime Minister.

<https://www.rcslt.org/forthcoming-events-and-webinars#section-2>

PRUsAP had undergone a recent re-launch and now had a network of representatives across the UK. A bid had been submitted for a grant of £50k for 9 PRUs to purchase robots in order to assist with social isolation. SPJ told a heart-warming story in relation to engagement and attendance of children as a result. A conference was planned on 5th July in Birmingham focusing on “Pupils at Risk of Exclusions”

NNPCF On Friday 14th December, the NNPCF arranged for a group of parents to meet with a representative from Ofsted to share their experiences of children with SEND in mainstream schools <https://tinyurl.com/yape62cs>. An annual conference was planned for autumn 2019.

NGA – was launching a campaign in Feb/March for the overall size of the schools budget to be increased. This including lobbying parliament. NGA was also working with ASCL to try and obtain more High Needs budget allocation. Termly meetings were being held with Special School Governors which were finding issues around the decline of outreach work and a greater number of children who were excluded and not getting support.

ALL

NSN The DfE has announced the next wave of free school applications. Wave 2 of Special School applications are anticipated in 2019 and are likely to be LA led.

NAS – The National Autism Strategy is going to be reviewed as well as a parliamentary review of the Autism Act. Submissions have been made to the Select Committee on SEND. The committee is led by Robert Halfon – MF requested that members consider and feedback any key messages she can take to Robert when he visits a NAS School. The Mental Capacity Act has had its second reading recently. NAS are inputting to the 10 year plan for the NHS.

nasen – The SENco forum is to be moved from the DfE to the SEND Gateway in April. A consortium has been formed to focus on Early Years. A suite of free training is available on the nasen website on Early Years SEND. They are also running EY SENCO Accredited Level 3 training to the PVI sector. nasen will be hosting a 2 day training course on Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) on the 26th and 27th March 2019 in London. Nasen Live will be on 12th July. <http://www.nasen.org.uk/nasenlive/>

NAHT - The government's autism strategy has been extended to cover children and young people. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism (APPGA) has prepared a report on Children with Autism. Two conferences are planned “SEND across all schools” <https://tinyurl.com/y8aqvblm> and “Girls and Autism” <https://tinyurl.com/y75undor>

IPSEA - CQC Inspector training was planned. The NAO were undertaking a consultation on funding. Recent litigation against Camden council had resulted in the Judge quashing a decision by council to amend EHC plan despite a tribunal ruling. IPSEA are delivering the annual SEN Law Conference on Tuesday 5th March 2019 in London. <https://tinyurl.com/yabttm8k>

ENGAGE - South / South East Regional Conference will take place on Friday 15th March 2019 at Muntham House School near Horsham, West Sussex. The National Student awards are scheduled for July 3. There are also “Creative Awards” for which the theme this year is “Bouncing Back”. A National Sports Festival is being held in Birmingham on July 26/27. <http://www.engageinthefuture.org/>

EQUALS - EQUALS Summer Conference 2019 scheduled for 5th July – theme “Curriculum at the Heart of Learning”. <https://equals.co.uk/>. Updated subject-specific Schemes of Work for the National Curriculum have been produced.

Browne Jacobson – The Equality Act 2010 meant schools were not required to show a reasonable adjustment before excluding a disabled child on grounds of their violent behaviour. However a recent case judgement ruled that this was incompatible with human rights law. The act is to be amended to accommodate this. MB noted that there was increasing litigation around SEND issues.

BATOD – The Mandatory Qualification is to be quality reviewed with the aim of strengthening the

award. There was also a move towards compulsory CPD for practitioners. The mentoring scheme developed by Manchester University is to be spread across the country.

10 Update from other affiliations, forums, trusts, alliances and partnerships

None

11 NSEND website

AP updated the meeting with details of the progress on the “refresh” of the NSEND website and the incorporation of FLSE. The work was now complete. AP had previously previewed the site to members and now invited them to view the finished article at <https://www.sendforum.org/> and <https://flse.sendforum.org/> AP explained that work had been undertaken on a “Pro Bono” basis by Nitesh Bhundia (NB) and his team at Lab3Media. Members expressed their grateful thanks to NB and requested that the Chair write to Lab3 to record their appreciation.

DB

AP stressed that updated content was now required and asked that members supply him with details of their forthcoming events (inc. links to the appropriate web-page). Also there were still some partners who had not supplied brief details about their organisation. If members were able to contribute or share resources for inclusion on the new site then this would also ensure that it remained topical and relevant.

All

12 Any focus for action and statements of agreement including future invitees

As noted above

13 AOB

None presented

14 Dates for 2018-19

Dates for 2018-19 have been confirmed on the agenda.

15 Venue 2018-19

Browne Jacobson will continue to provide a venue for NSEND meetings, with grateful thanks.

Meeting Closed at 3.00pm

Signed

D. Bateson OBE (Chair)