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**THE NATIONAL SEND FORUM Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019**  
**Browne Jacobson, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 6 Bevis Marks, EC3A 7BA**

**Present:** David Bateson OBE (DB) *Chair*, Chris Rollings (CR) *FLSE*, Lorraine Petersen OBE (LP) *FLSE*, Jackie Mullan (JM) *FLSE*, Carolyn Morgan (CM) *FLSE*, Adam Boddison (AB) *nasen*, Rona Tutt OBE (RT) *NAHT*, Melanie Foster (MF) *NAS*, Catherine Ollington (CO) *NSN*, Steve Cullingford-Agnew (SC-A) *Equals*, Caroline Wright (CW) *RCSLT*, Kiran Hingorani (KH) *SWALSS/NASS*, Stephen Deadman (SD) *NAHE*, Michelle Haywood (MH) *WMSEND*, Bernard Allen (BA) *Engage*, Brendan Heneghan OBE (BH) *Engage*, Ben Higgins (BHi) *BILD*, Angela Ransby (AR) *PRUsAP*, Jane Carter (JC) *pdnet*, Clare Dorer (CD) *NASS*, Tina Emery (TE) *NNPCF*, David Canning (DC) *BATOD/NATSIP*, Sarah Hanafin (SH) *NAHT*,

**Guests:** André Imich (AI) *DfE*, Richard Chapman (RC) *BILD*

**Minutes:** Andy Petersen (AP)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

DB welcomed everyone and asked each attendee to introduce themselves.

**For Action**

**2. Changes in Representation, Guests and Links**

**3. Apologies**

ASCL, IPSEA, NGA, sen.se, Shaw Trust, SSV, Browne Jacobson, NHS,

**4. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

CR requested that his apologies be added to the previous minutes

**AP**

**5. Policy and DfE Update (AI)**

- 1. Timpson Review of Exclusion** – work was on-going to “firm-up” the conclusions of the report. Only 47 schools issued more than 10 permanent exclusions in the same year. Not all schools were found to use exclusions. Academy exclusions were in the correct proportion to the number of Academies in the population of schools. Action was to be taken to hold schools more rigorously to account in this area – proposals would be made by DfE before Christmas. 75% of exclusions had been found to be SEN or behaviour related. Off-rolling was also a high profile issue – 3 secondary schools had been moved from good to inadequate by Ofsted as a result of it. DfE intended to update guidance within the next 12 months. CR highlighted the number of pupils moving to 52 week residential placement – this was becoming an extension of specialist schools support. TE commented that Sunderland were making reduction of exclusions a priority and had provided £1k to each of their schools to assist with this goal. Partnerships were also being developed with the NHS in this area.

2. **Education Select Committee** – had completed its deliberations but no date has as yet been set for the publication of their report.
3. **NAO Enquiry** “Support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities” – scheduled to report in Autumn 2019 and will focus on whether the Department for Education supports pupils with special educational needs and disabilities effectively. Currently £6.3Bn is spent on SEND. TE commented that funding was held up in the budgeting process. DB queried how VFM was judged. AI commented that this was based on outcomes, parental satisfaction, efficiency of LAs and exclusion statistics. AR was concerned about the use of part-time timetables, twilighting etc. although Ofsted is picking up some of these schools some are “getting away with it”. AI commented that schools needed to challenge each other and be responsible for letting the LA know about such practice. JC commented that there was different advice about part-time timetables, especially those with medical/SEMH needs. AI stated that doctors’ advice would state if such a timetable was appropriate. *NB Updated guidance on School Attendance has been issued in July 2109 and this incorporates guidance on PT timetables at page 17*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/818204/School\\_attendance\\_July\\_2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818204/School_attendance_July_2019.pdf)
4. **Spending Review** – the DfE and Treasury were currently working on this with a particular emphasis on high needs funding.
5. **SEND and AP provision: call for evidence** – the DfE has published a request for evidence in regard to funding. The key area for this consultation is the £6000 notional SEN budget.
6. **SEND Code of practice** – this is to be revised by the end of 2020 – SD commented that he had sent a “snagging list” to LP for the consultation. LP commented that SEND regulations needed updating. DB commented that new SEND statistics had been published in the week prior to the meeting. The feeling of the meeting was that the CoP needed to be shorter and suggested an executive summary be included. AI said there was an explanatory leaflet. The meeting felt that there should be a SENCo in every school and there was a discussion about MATs, small schools and and SENCOS who work across sites and schools.
7. **RT – Local Area Reviews** – Queried what was going to happen where re-visits highlighted that insufficient progress had been made and whether the DfE would be following up on this? AI explained that there were plans to do a complete second round of inspections but AI was not sure whether this would be able to happen due to funding issues with Ofsted. AB commented that the impact of these inspections was reducing and that being given a Written Statement of Action was becoming the new “norm”.

## 6. **School Funding – Call for Evidence**

LP was preparing a submission.

## 7. **Questions and observations for NHS SEND Lead Lorraine Mulroney**

1. SD had sent through a paper from NAHE prior to the meeting and spoke to it.
2. CR suggested a question on Strategic Commissioning and clarification of the CCG role.
3. RT queried why medical officers had not been appointed following LA reviews
4. SD commented that there was a variability of provision within hospitals – some teaching took place by bedsides whilst others used separate rooms. SD also questioned whether there was a sufficient provision after patients leave in-patient CAMHS units.
5. KH/DC questioned whether the processes surrounding transition from Childrens and Adult services were sufficiently robust.
6. DC suggested that there needed to be central collection of data.
7. BH commented that there needed to be more integrated working between Education, Health and Social Care.
8. CO commented that the Children’s Commissioners report highlighted variability of speech and language provision.
9. JM questioned how much resource schools were having to provide to cover gaps in provision by the NHS

**Members to send through any items for LM to DB/LP**

- 8. Thought Leadership paper (AB)**  
Item deferred until next meeting. **AB**
- 9. BILD: Risk and Restraint (BHi)**  
BHi gave a presentation on Restraint (BHi to circulate presentation to members after the meeting). RC amplified this by practical reference to his own school. **BHi**  
A robust discussion then took place about this topic. This item took 70 minutes.
- 10. Update from members: successes, issues and events**
- ENGAGE** – had recently held a very successful national conference in Stratford upon Avon. Next year’s conference was planned for Manchester. The awards ceremony had gone well. The chair had retired at the AGM – new “co-chairs” were to be appointed.
- Equals** a very successful conference had been held focusing on “Curriculum at the Heart of Learning” in July. Because the conference had been so successful a further one had been planned for March 2020 in Manchester. The July 2020 conference would focus on the 19-25 agenda and the World of Work.
- NAHE** – A Leadership Conference had been held in June and a further one was planned for November. NAHE’s annual conference was in October in Leicester. A “Working on the Wards” network meeting was also planned for November. The Oxfordshire Hospital School (OHS) has been awarded the Innovative use of technology to influence outcomes award at the TES Schools Awards 2019.
- NAHT** – a SEND conference was planned for March 2020. The Rochford review was nearing completion. Optional free training was to be offered on it.
- NAS** – A new National Autism Strategy was being developed by DHSC/DfE. It is due to be published in the autumn. The Government has been collecting evidence from autistic children, families and carers on how to improve current levels of support. NAS is working with DHSC/DfE using the findings of the recently-completed inquiry of APPGA. The APPGA has also performed an inquiry on the impact of the Autism Act, 10 years on to identify what is working and where the gaps are. This is being used to inform the review of the findings of this are being fed into the Government’s review of the National Autism Strategy. A report will be published in early September. Following the publication of the Timpson review on school exclusion, NAS are contributing to the DfE’s ongoing work on exclusion and behaviour. New guidance on school exclusions, and on behaviour and discipline, is due to be published in summer 2020. New CEO Caroline Stevens had been appointed. Also AET had appointed a new Director, Sarah Broadhurst.
- nasen** – nasen live was to be held on 12 July.
- WSSend** – Index published on SEND Gateway <https://tinyurl.com/y67j3lmb> Publication of Regional data is imminent. SEND induction pack <https://tinyurl.com/y4g3sdpw> was making a big impact on SENCOS, Leaders and SEN governors. Free regional CPD events were planned in the near future.
- NNPCF** – New representatives had been appointed to the 9 regions. The structure of the organisation had been revised. NNPCF had refreshed their report looking at the State of the nation, focusing on the experiences of families and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) around the country, a year after the end of the of the implementation period for the Children and Families Act. The AGM was to be held in November in Chester – it was hoped that 2 ministers would attend.
- PDnet** – The National Benchmark Survey 2018-19 had been published – a copy was circulated to the meeting. PDnet was aiming to improve their web presence and increase membership. Interactive quality standards were available on the website. PDnet had held a successful annual conference and workshops in June.
- RCSLT** – The Childrens Commissioners Report “We need to talk: Access to speech and language therapy“ ( <https://tinyurl.com/y2vx84ln> ) had been published in June. A useful article on it had been published on the Special Needs Jungle website <https://tinyurl.com/yyem3hv> RCSLT were hoping to meet with DHSC to discuss the report. The annual conference was to be held in September in

Nottingham.

**SWALLS** - New Ofsted Framework Sessions had been published on the website. A joint South West SEND Conference between SWALSS/NESTA will be held at the Haynes International Motor Museum on 7 November 2019. Headteacher Performance Management Consultancy service was now being offered by SWALLS.

**WMSENDF** – had recently published a book on “Research SEND in ordinary Classrooms”  
<https://tinyurl.com/y6s67jov>

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

None

**12. NSENDF website**

**AP** reminded members that the website could be used for publishing events, publications or job applications – write to [contact@sendforum.org](mailto:contact@sendforum.org) with any contributions.

**All**

**13. Any focus for action and statements of agreement including future invitees**

None

**14. AOB**

None presented

**15. Dates for 2018-19** - None

**16. Dates for 2019-2020**

09 October, 04 December, 05 February, 25 March, 20 May, 08 July

**18. Venue 2019-2020**

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

**Meeting Closed at 3pm**