

**National SEND Reference Group Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, 10am – 12.30pm**

**Public Minutes**

WSS Special Schools Strand – Alex Grady joined to present on the Sector-led Improvement strand of WSS. The purpose of this work is to widen access to outputs of specialist groups to special schools, so that live priorities and concerns of the specialist sector can be shared with the DfE. Effective practices can be shared via the National SEND Reference Group with special school networks.

Guidance for the September return to school testing programme – DfE colleagues joined to provide an update. Settings will not be required to act as a distribution point of asymptomatic testing over the summer. If students or staff would like to continue testing, they can order kits online. The voluntary testing programme will remain in September. If individuals cannot test on site, they can test at home.

Change to Terms of Reference – Adam Boddison updated on the new agreed Terms of Reference for the group. It was agreed that the membership should reflect the breadth and complexity of the sector. Where it is felt that representation is missing, a request to become a member can be made in writing. Individuals can become a member if they are not already represented in a national network.

Approve Andrew Buckton joining the group – Andrew Buckton was suggested as a replacement for Mark Collis, who will be retiring. All agreed to Andrew joining the group. Adam thanked Mark for his contribution to the reference group.

Any Other Business – Adam Boddison is moving on from nasen to a new role, so will no longer be Chair of the National SEND Reference Group. Everyone thanked Adam for setting up the group to support the sector.