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## THE NATIONAL SEND FORUM Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Lorraine Petersen OBE (LP) FLSE, Chair, Rona Tutt OBE (RT) NAHT, Sibel Djemal (SDJ) Batod/Natsip, Stephen Deadman (SD) NAHE, Jackie Mullan (JM) FLSE, Jane Carter (JC) Pdnet, Julia Brunning (JB) NNPCF

**Guests:** Pat Bullen, Lead for LLP Change Programme Partnership

**Minutes:** Andy Petersen (AP)

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

LP welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

#### 2. Protocol for meeting

LP went through some protocols for the meeting.

#### 3. Apologies

Keiron Hingorani (KH) SWALSS, Catriona Moore (CM) IPSEA, Carolyn Morgan (CM) FLSE, Rob Williams (RW) NAHT, Annamarie Hassell (AH) nasen, Malcolm Reeve (MR) WSS, Penny Barrett (PB) SSV.

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

The minutes were agreed.

#### 5. Policy and DfE Update

LP had received an email from Patrick Agius from the Engagement Unit at the DfE. No one from the department was available to attend this meeting but they had noted the two dates in May and July. He would like to hear from the members of NSEND Forum about the key issues that we would like to discuss. He also felt that we would be a good group to seek feedback on on-going departmental work.

**ACTION:** LP to contact PA and invite to next meeting

#### 6. Update on SEND Change Programme – Pat Bullen

LP welcomed Pat to the meeting. PB is the Lead for the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (LLR) SEND Change Programme Partnership. PB shared her presentation (previously circulated). LLP felt that

the three areas reflected a good cross-section of authorities, they are working closely with one ICB. There are 11 strands of activity that are being tested by the Change Partnerships.

- Standardised EHCP - Template being tested as all the same ingredients of the current plan – Section A is split into two – more of a start-up focus - strengths based approach to the young person – document now in landscape to be able to read across – needs, provision and outcomes – separate sections for education, health and social care. Word counts on most sections – feedback is that it is standardised, shorter and more concise.
- Four broad areas of reform – Enablers, ordinarily available provision, EHC Plan Reform and Standards and Commissioning.
- 11 areas of testing - Local Area Inclusion Plans, Digitised EHCP template, Local Area Data Dashboard, Bands & Tariffs, Strengthened Mediation, Effective Multi-Agency Panels, Advisory Tailored Lists, National Standards, Early Language Support for Every Child- ELSEC, Alternative Provision- three-tier availability and funding clarity and Improve Transitions in EY and post-16.
- Also, work alongside - PINS- Partnership for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (NHSE)
- Drift in the programme especially as we are in an election year.
- Local Inclusion Plans (LAIPS) – Joint area inclusion strategy plan
- Early Language Support for Every Child – Started in the East Midlands – Change grant plus NHS funding – Speech and language assistants supporting more moderate SLCN to enable SALT to concentrate on more complex cases
- National Standards – this is going to need a great deal of training once these are issued – Delayed from November to June - start with EYSLCN – Govt. looking at them being advisory but need to be statutory if they will make a change. What does Ordinarily Available look like?
- Three Tier AP model – AP is an intervention not a destination
- Advisory Tailored List – Shortlist of 3 schools at Week 10 of the SA process – at least one mainstream school
- Not in scope – Recruitment of EPs, NPQ SENCO, EYSENCO, Supported Internships
- Reach Newsletter for communication –
- All regions are looking at the 11 areas but at very different speeds.
- Regions are clustered – DfE support each cluster – Still needs to be better communication between the regions

LP thanked PB for her excellent presentation and insights into the Change Programme.

**ACTION: LP to circulate PB's presentation**

## **7. Current Issues for Discussion**

Ofsted Consultation – The Big Listen – LP asked if the Forum want to respond to this consultation. LP to produce a word document of the questions and the Forum to jointly complete at our next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**ACTION: LP to prepare questions for next meeting.**

## **8. Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) next steps – Feedback from RCE Working Group**

LP to send Patrick Agius the most recent communication about RCEs and ask that he feedback to us at the next meeting.

**ACTION LP: Send information about RCEs to PA to discuss at next meeting.**

## 9. Update from members

**NAHT (RT):** [NAHT Annual Conference](#) – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Taking place in Newport- Wales.

**NAHE (SD):** Change Programme has developed local thinking even if it comes to nothing nationally. Written their manifesto – work around definition of hospital education – What are the KPIs for Alternative Provision? Leadership Conference in Birmingham later in year.

**Pdnet (JC):** Chairing a meeting on ordinarily available provision for PD. Pdnet not been consulted at all within the Change Programme. Pdnet Champions across England invited to the meeting to discuss Ordinarily Available Provision. Annual Conference 28<sup>th</sup> June

**NNPCF (JB):** National Conference last month – David Johnston MP speaker - Consultation from Law Commission about to be launched – [Review legislation on social care for disabled children](#)

Main concern is the EP shortage and impact on time-scales for SA – LAs not able to keep to the 20-week timescale – Current DfE figures indicate only 49.2% of EHCPs were produced within the 20 week timeframe.

Message in the media about the cost of SEND is bankrupting LAs - blaming parents for pushing for support for their children

**FLSE (JM):** Southend also struggling with SEND provision – restructure the Team – Not enough school places – same picture across the Eastern Region – very small group represented within the Change Programme Partnership – not sure they are representative of the Eastern area.

Eastern Region Conference in July.

**BATOD (SJ):** [The Specialist deaf curriculum framework](#) (SDCF), an online free-to-access resource, was launched in February 2024 by the British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (BATOD) and the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS).

The SDCF supports deaf babies, children, young people, and their families develop their knowledge so they can make the important, informed and independent decisions about their deafness, from identification through to adulthood. Professionals can find information on good practice, suggestions for interventions and links to useful resources on all aspects of deafness and development including mental health, preparation for adulthood and deaf identity.

**NatSIP:** Andre Imich gave a last keynote speech to the NatSIP online event on 8th February. The focus was on developments of the Plan and the Local Area SEND Inspections.

NSEND colleagues may be interested in the presentations. Available on the NatSIP website:

<https://www.natsip.org.uk/4114-2024-02-08-la-send-inspections-presentations>

NatSIP is working with colleagues in DfE team, on behalf of the SI sector, on development of the SI Practitioner Standards

Reasonable Adjustments in Schools: Guide Dogs, working with NatSIP, published new guidance on reasonable adjustments on 5th March: <https://www.natsip.org.uk/4128-reasonable-adjustments-guidance-mar-2024>

**10. NSENDF operations**

Nothing to report

**11. AOB**

None.

**12. Dates for 2023-24**

**Next Meeting to be held on**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**at**

**Browne Jacobson, 15th Floor, 6 Bevis Marks, London, EC3A 7BA**

Meeting Closed at 11.40 am.