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**THE NATIONAL SEND FORUM Minutes 05.02.2020**  
**Browne Jacobson, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 6 Bevis Marks, EC3A 7BA**

**Present:** David Bateson OBE (DB) *Chair*, Carolyn Morgan (CM) *FLSE*, 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*, Brendan Heneghan OBE (BH) *Engage*, William Markey (WM) *NGA*, Kim Taylor (KT) *FLSE*, Lucy Atherton (LA) *IPSEA*, Carol Kelsey (CK) *NNPCF*,

**Guests:** Kate Cooper & Rina Bajaj -Anna Freud Centre

**Minutes:** Michelle Haywood (MH)

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** Accuracy, Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.

Two Corrections

Pg 2 – 2 whos

Pg 4- Under Equals – website, NAS – school(s)

AP

**Anna Freud Centre, Schools in Mind: Cait Cooper (CC) , Deputy Director of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools programme and Rina Bajaj (RB), Head of Training, Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools.**

CC and RB provided an overview to NSEND members on the Anna Freud centre’s work with schools. Supporting Powerpoint circulated. Members were encouraged to swap contact details to discuss individual projects. **CC and RB particularly looking for members to support the Quality Assurance panel and identify training gaps.**

**Policy Update**

Provided by RT from Joint Union Mtg.

Of the **Local Area reviews** which have taken place – 50% now have statements of action

The DFE has been expanded and there is a likelihood that the Local Area Reviews will continue

**Engagement Profile (SCA)** There will be some Train the Trainer sessions available. Members questioned what does engagement look like and do schools have to use it if there are other assessment processes in place. Discussion focused around manageability in schools and how the profile will be introduced to Initial Teacher Training providers and how student teachers will be informed.

## Thought Leadership Pieces (AB)

AB gave an update on the NSENDf thought leadership pieces which are to be financially supported by nasen.

Each piece will be costed at £2500, to cover marketing, publication, around £500 and around £2000 to be divided between the members involved.

Two pieces have been identified

- a. Zero Tolerance Behaviour Policies – CK, LA, BH (and MH)
- b. Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and SEND- MH, SD, SCA

Both groups will update on progress at subsequent meetings and ask for contributions from members which will be collated.

The expectation is that each piece will take around 6 months to complete. Each piece as a minimum will contain an **Executive Summary** and a **Call for action**.

Future topics could be – The real meaning of inclusion, Ethos & Culture, 21<sup>st</sup> Schools for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Children

**Information item: sub-group meeting after this one to progress research about Regional Centres of Excellence Update on research proposal (RT/CD/DB/KH)**

Working group met after the meeting and will feedback on progress at the next meeting

## Update from members: successes, issues and events

### Browne Jacobson.

Apologies sent.

No Update available

## ENGAGE

- a. conferences and events – details can be found at <https://engageintheirfuture.org/events-initiatives/>
- b. Enrichment for Education – Connections Exhibition going well
- c. The National Awards will take place at the National Conference which will be attended by Nick Whittaker and Charlie Taylor
- d. A National Football Competition will take place at St George's Park in Staffordshire
- e. In July 2021. Engage may be involved in a South Africa trip. More details will be available once it has been confirmed.

## BATOD/Natsip

- a. NHS England Proposing free sight and hearing checks in Specialist Settings. Project to pilot from April. Should track undiagnosed serious sight issue
- b. Research Informed Practice at Frank Barnes School for the deaf on the 14<sup>th</sup> March

## Equals

- a. Conference to be held in Manchester - March 2020
- b. The June 2020 conference would focus on the 14-25 agenda and "What does Independence mean for young people with PMLD, SLD and MLD?". It was also now possible to advertise jobs on the Equals website. AP commented that this could also be done on the NSENDf

website.

- c. MAP – updating personal progress
- d. Meeting was held with Welsh Head Teachers to share ideas. Very Successful

## FLSE

- a. Raised concerns about the use of cannabis oil for epilepsy. Parents are purchasing and Jan would like to know if anyone has come across this.
- b. Eastern conference scheduled for Wyboston Lakes on 17/18 June 2020.

## IPSEA

- a. SEND tribunals are overwhelmed due in part to a lack of judges but as a consequence there are children being left without appropriate provision
- b. 'Just for Kids Law' project being developed for excluded children. There is free advice from Junior Barristers involved in the project and independent review panels.

## NAHE

- a. Leadership Conference 18/19<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- b. Annual Conference 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- c. Peer review Pilot
- d. FOI has gone out to LAs around budgets and providers
- e. Questionnaires to schools, show they don't know their budgets
- f. Putting together a CPD offer and have had contact from Teaching schools for support

## NAHT

- a. Rob will send out the link for the Place to be Survey
- b. Nick Whittaker attended the Special Education Consortium. NAHT queried the level of Specialist expertise in the Ofsted team. Rob offered to follow this up
- c. 20<sup>th</sup> March - Annual Conference – Manchester -Chamber of Commerce
- d. Rona is co authoring her 7<sup>th</sup> publication with Paul Williams – Creating a culture in School

## nasen circulated update

- a. Development of the nasen ten year strategy
- b. Whole School SEND should continue for another year
- c. The EY SENCO project is likely to continue for another year
- d. Lobbying for every EY setting to have an Early Years SENCO
- e. Dual/Multiple exceptionality will continue to be a focus
- f. National SEND Survey. 1500 SENCOs surveyed via an opportunist survey, which reinforced the messages of the previous year

## NAS circulated update

- a. NAS are planning the official opening of our newest school, Vanguard School in south London, which is designed to support autistic students who have high academic potential but cannot cope with mainstream settings. We have invited the SEND minister to attend.
- b. NAS are holding an event in Parliament next month to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary (slightly belated because of the general election) of the Autism Act 2009. This will be an opportunity to present to parliamentarians old and new the findings of the recent inquiry into the impact of the Act by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism.
- c. NAS are running another of our popular 'Understanding autism' sessions in Parliament for MPs and their staff.

- d. NAS are briefing new MPs on the particular needs of children on the autism spectrum, and on the way the SEND system works.
- e. NAS are still working with the Department for Education and the Department for Health and Social Care on the new national autism strategy, which will include children and young people for the first time. The new strategy should have been published by now, but is due to appear sometime in the spring.
- f. NAS have raised concerns with the Department for Education about the new core content framework for initial teacher training, published in November 2019, which says very little about specific training in supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities, and nothing about equipping trainee teachers to adapt their teaching to meet particular types of need. We believe that this will leave autistic children without the support and understanding they need at school, and is a step backwards from the 2016 ITT framework.
- g. We have contributed to the ongoing cross-governmental review of SEND as a member of the Council for Disabled Children.
- h. NAS have received a donation which will allow them to set up a number of enhanced resources for High attaining pupils in a number of LAs. Kent/Surrey and Brighton & Hove have already identified a gap in provision and will be supported through the donation. Members were asked to contact MF if they knew of any LAs who could be supported in a similar way

## NASS

‘Demo Day’ which follows the next NSEND meeting on the 25th March. 9 schools will be showcasing their innovative work for children with SEND, and looking for opportunities to share, partner and collaborate with others. It will run between **4 - 6.30pm** at Buzacott's near Bank station, and there will be a drinks reception with chance to network with school leaders, funders, policy makers, commissioners, researchers and others interested in improving education and opportunities for children with SEND

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/showcasing-innovative-approaches-for-young-people-with-send-tickets-92233505899>

## NSN

Unity Howard has been appointed as the new Director of NSN. Currently advising on alternative provision and promoting high quality provision in these settings.

Deadline for LA supported SEND Free schools ended. 39 local authorities are being assessed (37 special schools and 2 APs)

## NGA

- a. SEND Governance Conference – 4<sup>th</sup> July in Birmingham – currently seeking suggestions and contributions
- b. The SEND Advisory group, now has a wider remit and can welcome more members
- c. NGA and nasen will be collaborating on some joint guidance

## NNPCF

No Update available

## PDnet .

Apologies sent.

No update

## RCSLT

- a. Research into developmental language. Tool for people to use as a priority
- b. Published SMEH for SCLN
- c. E learning on SEMH and communication needs

## SWALLS

- a. All future conference and details can be found at <https://www.swalss.co.uk/events>
- b. Deputies conference – 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> March. Workshops include – what to expect from a deep dive

## WMSENDF

The WMSENDF will be renamed **WM Inclusion Insight** and will become part of The Black Country Insight Project. The focus will be on collating good SEND practice from across the WM region, into thought pieces which can feed into the Black County Insight work undertaken by the Education Observatory at The University of Wolverhampton.

The Black Country insight report will be updated as it is now established as an annual publication. This year it will include case studies from the local area <http://educationobservatory.co.uk/black-country-education-insight-report/>

The first WM Inclusion Insight event will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April at the University of Wolverhampton, Walsall Campus. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wm-inclusion-insight-group-tickets-97062581795>

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

Members requested input on Teaching Schools and how we could work with them

### 13. NSENDF

AP to update on subscriptions at the next meeting

Any website changes to be sent to LP

AP, All

### 14. Any focus for action and statements of agreement including future invitees

1. Approach Teaching School Council for input on Teaching School Hubs
2. Circulate Anna Freud Information
3. Call for comments on NSENDF thought pieces
4. Andre Imich will be present at the next meeting

DB

### 15. AOB

None presented

### 16. Dates for 2019-2020

25 March, 20 May, 08 July

### 17. Venue 2019-2020

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

**Meeting Closed at 2.45pm**

### **Additional Information received following the meeting**

Roger Broadbent of the Dyslexia Institute has sent information about Manchester's International Dyslexia Conference, 29/30th July at MMU.

They will be exploring key issues with more than 20 international experts. Key themes: Health

(physical/mental), Assistive Technology, Education, Homelessness, and HR/Employment.

The Education session will be headed by Prof Pam Snow and the Children's Society (Michael Phipps), followed by the Maltese Head of Special Education (Christine Firman). We will discuss exclusions, county lines, dyslexia friendly schools, best practice, dyscalculia, and the latest/best assistive technology.

The keynote speaker on health will be from the NHS, discussing why dyslexics struggle with health care. There will also be a range of speakers exploring childhood trauma. The possible interventions and solutions to these issues will be discussed.

They also have some assistive tech to give to schools and universities to trial or have totally free, as part of the legacy of the event.

<https://tinyurl.com/idc2020Manchester>

Barry Payne attended the **Area SEND Stakeholder Group as raised at NSEND**. Barry reports that it was a very interesting meeting and that he put a number of points with regard to Area Inspections and the views of Special School Leaders. They are looking to meet again, but want to extend the group to include the voices of Mainstream School Leaders, Parents/Carers and Young People. Barry has suggested that Rona would be able to help with the mainstream leaders voice and IPSEA would be good to get the views of how the system is working for Parents/Carers. The current terms of Reference of the group are attached.