

ESSEX PRIMARY HEADS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Director's Report to EPHA –September & October 2016

I retired from Headship at Highwoods Community Primary School on the 31st of August and on the 1st of September found myself on the film set of Jimmy Doherty and Jamie Oliver's Friday Night Feast representing EPHA! What a way to start my time as Executive Director. The filming took place at Prince Avenue Primary Academy in Southend. The school made everyone very welcome and I was impressed by how friendly Jamie and Jimmy were. The programme focused on 'holiday hunger' for children who have free school meals normally. Jamie's latest crusade and certainly as I pointed out when interviewed on behalf of EPHA many schools already have holiday clubs that target support for children from vulnerable backgrounds in Essex. I was also at pains to point out that this should be a choice for schools to engage in this type of holiday support. The filming took place in the morning and they were moving onto the pier to film with Tom Daley in the afternoon. The programme goes out in December or January but I will try to let colleagues know when it goes out.

List of meetings attended:

Meeting attended only by myself

Meetings attended by myself with Harriet, Pam or other EPHA Headteachers

5th Sept am - (County Hall) – Met with Clare Kershaw to discuss my role and latest issues facing Essex Schools.

7th Sept pm - (Braintree)– Met with Simon Thompson (ASHE) to discuss the term ahead and discussed results published in both sectors over the summer. It is good to have a close working relationship with ASHE.

12th Sept pm – (Janet Duke PS) Met with Harriet and Pam to discuss issues and EPHA strategy going forward for this academic year.

14th Sept am – (Hylands House) Attended the Schools Forum Sub-group looking at responses to the proposals by the DfE to changes in Early Years Funding. EPHA Super Executive meeting at Hylands House to discuss up coming EPHA executive and Head's meetings for autumn term

15th Sept am – (Chelmsford College) Attended the Essex Employment and Skills Board. Presentations from various sectors. Discussion about careers events for young people over the year. Discussion about Young Engineers project for Primary schools.

19th Sept am – (County Hall) – SLIS sub group looking at Leadership capacity in Essex. Chaired by Graham Lancaster, other attendees were Simon Thompson (ASHE) and Simon Rea (ISOS)

21st Sept all day – (Essex Records Office) – Whole ESSEX Information Sharing Forum Annual Conference. A range of speakers and discussion about data protocols and whether all institutions are following DP regulations as outlined in the 1998 Act

23rd Sept am – (Manor of Groves) – WEPHA Conference – with Natasha Devon speaking about self-image in young people.

23rd Sept pm – (Marconi Club) – The SLIS Improvement board looked at the skills and direction of the board in the future. There were four groups looking at different types of system leadership for the board to be successful over the next few years.

26th Sept am – (County Hall) – Broadband sub group of Schools Forum. Pam, Nick and I attended a difficult but eventually useful meeting getting the broadband team at County Hall to work on solutions in the future for Broadband provision and payments for schools. It was agreed after looking at various options that Sian and her team would come back to this group in October with more detail looking at just two options.

27th Sept pm – (County Hall) Recruitment and retention task and finish group. Graham Lancaster chaired the first of our meetings since the summer break. We had a pitch from a TSA in North Essex to ask for funds to start their own recruitment agency. We were all disappointed with this as there seemed to be very little detail behind the brief document supplied. It was agreed that Graham would alert all TSA's to the opportunities available and ask the TSA from North Essex to return with more detail. We looked at accommodation supporting teachers in Essex and we heard about ITT providers and their struggles with the DfE.

28th Sept am – (Essex Records Office) I was asked by Clare Kershaw to represent EPHA to work with Lesley Cheshire on Personal Budgets connected to EHCs. There were representatives from parent groups, CCGs, Social Care, Disability groups, Ralph Holloway and Andrew Hunt from the DfE. Andrew led a brilliant session on personal budgets and then we had to look at the challenges facing the implementation of these budgets in Essex. The meeting took three hours but we all felt that there is a lot more work to do in formulating an Essex policy. There will be further working groups over the next few months.

28th Sept pm – (Sandon High) – Meeting of the Chairs and Professional Officers, ASHE, ESETT and EPHA. This meeting is very useful for sharing of information. We also had Gary Smith (Market Field Head) on facetime representing ESETT. The meeting looked at results from different sectors, pressures on schools, DfE policy, RSC policy and other local issues.

Forthcoming meetings;

30th Sept am – (County Hall) – Small Schools sub group from Schools Forum

30th Sept pm – (County Hall) – Meeting with Sarah Bell regarding Academy experience as a Head

4th Oct am – (Stanway School) – Virtual Governing Body meeting (EPHA's Rep on Gov Body)

5th Oct pm – (County Hall) – SEND Meeting and Pre-Schools Forum meeting

6th Oct am – (Chelmsford City FC) – EPHA AGM and EPHA executive

7th Oct am – (County Hall) – SLIS sub group led by Nicola Woolf

9th Oct pm – Travel to Cumbria

10th Oct am – Meeting with Cumbria LA with SLIS Board members looking at good practice

12th Oct am – (Hylands House) - Schools Forum meeting

14th Oct all day – (Weston Homes Stadium) - EPHA Deputy Heads Conference

18th Oct am – (County Hall) – Broadband sub group meeting

18th Oct am – (Chelmsford Rugby Club) – Safeguarding Update Meeting from Jo Barclay

20th Oct am – (Ford HQ Dagenham) – Essex Employment and Skills Board

Half term

1st Nov am – (Dunmow) – SLIS Monitoring visit with Nicola Woolf

2nd Nov pm – (Epping Forest) – SLIS Monitoring visit with Nicola Woolf

9th Nov all day – (Weston Homes Stadium) – North East Area Headteacher Meeting
10th Nov all day – (Basildon Holiday Inn) – Southern Area Headteacher Meeting
10th Nov pm – (Museum OF Power) – Young Engineers Launch event
11th Nov am – (Marconi Club) – School Improvement Board
11th Nov am – (Marconi Club) – Recruitment and Retention Group
16th Nov all day – (Weston Homes Business Centre, Takeley) – Western Area Headteacher Meeting
17th Nov all day – (Chelmsford City FC) – Mid Area Headteacher Meeting
21st Nov pm – (Marconi Club) – New Headteacher Meeting
7th Dec am – (Hylands House) – Schools Forum
14th Dec am – SEND meeting – Marconi Club

I have enjoyed my first half term as EPHA Executive Director and look forward to supporting schools and Heads in particular going forward. Harriet and Pam are a great team to work with however I do not feel I have made enough impact yet but it is early in the school year and I am working with lots of different groups including NAHT on shifting policy at the DfE. It has been challenging attending so many different groups (I know Pam takes this in her stride!) and I feel in the first year it is better to visit as many groups as possible and then take a view at the end of the school year with Harriet and Pam.

The educational landscape is shifting rapidly at present with the publication of the Green Paper on Grammar Schools. I feel this is diverting attention away from the real issues of assessment, recruitment/retention, funding, SEND and teacher/headteacher morale. I hope to be meeting with the RSC later this term with Harriet and raising the real issues with Tim Coulson. These meetings are always worthwhile despite the trek to Cambridge.

I look forward to working with you all in the future and please make contact with me if there is a particular issue you wish to discuss or for me to follow up. My email address is nigelhookway@hotmail.com

Nigel Hookway
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