

ESSEX HEADTEACHER INCLUSION ROUND TABLE

TUESDAY 4 MAY 2021

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

Online

1. IN ATTENDANCE

ECC

Clare Kershaw (CK)	Director of Education
Ralph Holloway (RH)	Head of SEND Strategy and Innovation
Philippa Holliday (PH)	Assistant Director, North East
Helen Wall (HW)	SEND Strategy Lead: Participation and Inclusion
Vanessa Hockley	SEND Innovation

Primary

Andrew Smith (AS)	CEO/Headteacher Lyons Hall - Chair
Matt O'Grady (MO'G)	Headteacher, West Horndon Primary
Deborah Bailey	Headteacher, John Bunyan Primary
Becky Moore	Headteacher, Rivenhall Primary
Harriet Phelps-Knights	EPHA Chair/Headteacher Janet Duke Primary (South)
Teresa Phillips	Headteacher, Thomas Willingale School
David Rogers	Headteacher, Bentfield Primary and Enhanced Provision (West)
Marie Staley	Headteacher, Moulsham Juniors
Pam Langmead (PL)	EPHA Professional Officer (from 2.00 pm)
Sean Tobin	CEO Berlesduna Trust

Secondary

Mark Farmer (MF)	Bridge Academy Trust
Vic Goddard	Passmores Academy
Rob James	Ramsey Academy
Simon Thompson	ASHE Executive Director

Nursery

Debs Watson	Tanglewood Nursery School
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Special

Liz Cornish	Glenwood School
Jennifer Grotier	Headteacher, Shorefields School
Ruth Sturdy	CEO SEAX
Dan Woodham	Headteacher, Edith Borthwick School

AP

Philomena Cozens (PC)	Chief Executive Officer, Keys Co-operative Trust
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Governors

Ruth Bird	ESGA
John Hunter	ESGA
Rod Lane	ESGA

Additional members

Andy Hodgkinson (AH)	
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Andrew Smith advised that apologies were received from Pam Langmead and Mark Farmer – they will be joining meeting later. AS advised that PL was therefore unable to take minutes and that his PA Alison Gooday will do this until PL can join the meeting.

Andrew Smith (Chair) welcomed colleagues to the meeting and handed over to Ralph Holloway.

1. RESPONSE TO INSPECTION

RH outlined briefly areas of strength to work on. Over identification of MLD had been reduced leading to an increase of identified SEMH and Speech and Language – progress has been made in these areas, there are signs of improvement but still at the early stages, once the data is understood we can support with SEN across the local areas.

The Essex Family Forum undertook an annual family impact survey on the health of the SEND system following the 2019 inspection. The survey (which received 700 responses) highlighted a number of areas which will require partnership working with schools and settings:

- Effectiveness of Annual Reviews;
- Pupil/parent voice not being heard
- Navigation of the SEND system.
- SEN support
- One-planning

“Quality of EHCP” workshop – we will begin to share and review, good progress is being made but there is a need to do some internal work within ECC. There is a need to work with parents to find a new and transparent process. SEND report said that 27% of parents said they were well supported. Need to look at what expertise is in the system, drives to parents seeking EHCP and seeking support. Parents stated that at One Plan Meetings they felt that external agencies/professionals were not properly involved and inconsistent. Feedback from parents on Annual Reviews they said that professionals/agencies were patchy and inconsistent. Community is the key component – opens the barrier to other support that the children need. There was lots of praise but changes need to be made. RH is asking that the Headteachers Roundtable to think about points raised and to come up with suggestions to make improvements. RH asked if anyone would like to offer help.

Marie Staley, Headteacher at Moulsham Juniors, totally agreed about the views from the parents and the navigation through the system. Some parents are very skilful and know how to get the support they need; we need to find a way to reach the hard to reach parents. Sean Tobin offered his help to do this – Ofsted need to hear good news stories not just bad news, how do we reach out to these parents?

Matt O’Grady, Headteacher of West Horndon Primary, agreed with everything that MS mentioned but would like to drill down into what parents are not getting through OP/AR/Professionals. Talking on behalf of schools in the Brentwood and surrounding areas there is inconsistency in access to Educational Psychologists. There is a need to focus on the positive good news. Perhaps share feedback from an exit survey when the children leave the system and share comments/messages this way.

Vic Goddard, Passmores Academy agreed with the positive stories and suggested that we need to get feedback from Send Warriors and Senco Worriers.

RH to channel back to the Family Forum to forward positive feedback and to get good experiences from the 10,500 EHCPs to capture the wider experience.

Deb Bailey, Headteacher at John Bunyan Primary, said we need to capture the pupils' experiences and support. If all of this information was collated, it would address the pupils' voice missing from the system.

AS mentioned that Steve Whitfield does this through the GROW provision work.

Teresa Phillips, Headteacher at Thomas Willingale School, said this could be done through a parent survey if there was staff capacity and a good calibre of parents.

AS to create of bank of testimonials – Headteachers to contact Andrew.

Jennifer Grotier, Headteacher at Shorefields School, suggested that we need to look at it as if we were Ofsted. Need to think about what would enable us to be effective for our families.

RH agreed that this does fit well, need to look at data from Ofsted.

Rob James, Headteacher at Ramsey School, noted that prioritising in Essex, how many have SEN data, peer reviews that could be used as evidence if willing to share?

MO'G suggested gathering long term anecdotal evidence. Entry and exit survey gives evidence at start and leave. Need to capture long term impact.

He asked what RH thought, RH said long term rather than short term. The DfE looks at cost effectiveness short term rather than long term.

2. SEND STRATEGY

SEND Peer Reviews - RH handed over to Philippa Holliday. PH/RH advised that the final versions of the SEN peer review documents will be circulated. Materials and resources have been given to schools – all in alignment and now completed.

SEND Strategy

RH reported that the DfE delayed the review of SEND reforms until June; they looked at 5 key areas:- Ambitious outcomes, parental confidence needs being met, building capacity, local performances and understanding the local SEND system. DfE reported 3 key areas – High quality, all in line with ECC thinking within the 3 pillars of SEND system

Essex Capacity and Staffing Structure – created inclusion partners
Creating capacity within schools – PRU, Free Schools, SEND project
School-led SEND system

When ECC consulted with schools and parents in 2019 on School-led SEND there were concerns raised that this looked like ECC abandoning both schools and families. Autumn 2019 new structure, had over 30 meetings, got feedback about vision through ECC local area SEND strategy meetings moving from vision to strategy. Will share this information at conference. Sense-check to work with group of Headteachers – want driver for change. VG asked RH re Strategy and asked if Inclusion Teams could be involved not necessarily Headteachers – Headteachers to email RH with volunteer names.

3. SEND/INCLUSION CONFERENCE

Inclusion conference to go ahead at the end of term.

CK met with PH/RH/ST/AS/PL to plan the conference. Phillipa Holliday asked how Headteachers can be encouraged to attend. CK advised that they have secured a keynote speaker Margaret Mulholland, ASCL Quality Lead for Inclusion. Proposing the morning of **30 June 2021** to launch output document, inclusion framework strategy.

This year hoping to hear from young people, school councils and ambassadors and case studies, have break out rooms for discussion and debate. Hoping to get other speakers too. DB suggested hearing from pupils/POET challenge video, school ambassadors, needs school leaders, children and parents. CK would like to end the year on positive note to go in to the Summer break and recognises fatigue in the system but need to be energising and uplifting. AS confirmed that it would be a virtual meeting.

CK wants it to be a positive Headteachers Roundtable Conference and that Headteachers need to get staff onboard to attend, needs to be branded by Headteachers.

6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

AS suggested sometime after conference – decided on **Tuesday 6 July 2021** at 1pm via Teams.

CK, RH, AS to meet before this date and set the Agenda. RH advised that he would copy and share chat section of this meeting to all in attendance.