

What do headteachers get in return for their top-sliced contribution to EPHA?

Once again, in the 2020/21 financial year EPHA will be funded by a top-sliced contribution from schools – therefore, we will not be collecting an annual subscription. The current rate (agreed by headteachers in June 2017 and the Schools Forum) is £320 per school or academy. There has been no increase in the rate since 2017. In return, headteachers will receive the following benefits:

- **A termly meeting for headteachers in each of the four areas of Essex**
A chance for all headteachers to meet with colleagues across their area, network and share good practice, find out about current local and national issues, and feed back their concerns and successes to the LA and other heads. At the meetings headteachers will benefit from school development workshops and training and access to resources and information. All that, and a free lunch!
- **Termly briefings for headteacher clusters and partnerships**
The Professional Officer delivers briefings to groups of headteachers each term, giving up to date information about Ofsted, safeguarding, the DfE, the Local Authority, policies and much more, plus a “do-list” and masses of documents and resources – to save Essex heads time and effort. *During lockdown, the briefing notes and the do-list were sent to headteachers by email – hopefully normal service, with chocolates, will soon be resumed.*
- EPHA offers vital support to new and acting headteachers across the county through its **Colleague Supporter programme**. *We are considering expanding this programme to offer support to any headteacher who would like it.*
- **The termly Executive meetings**
EPHA headteachers, who are elected to represent every area, district and Local Delivery Group in Essex, meet termly to discuss national, county and local issues, with the aims of ensuring that the primary voice is heard in Essex and driving forward the school improvement agenda. *During lockdown the number of meetings has increased and have been held online.*
- **EPHA Professional Officer**
The employment of a Professional Officer, Pam Langmead, who runs the administration of the association, manages the website, writes and runs the briefings, sends regular information and advice to heads, organises annual conferences for headteachers and deputies, attends a range of meetings on behalf of EPHA, and supports the Executive and all headteachers across Essex. The Professional Officer represents Essex Primary headteachers on county-boards and committees, including the Essex Safeguarding Children Board, and the Children’s

Partnership Board (and local Partnership Boards in each quadrant). We know that it is essential for headteachers to collaborate and cooperate with their local schools, but also feel that it is essential for the Essex primary voice to be heard at the strategic level in local and national politics. The Chair of EPHA and the Professional Officer are on the board of the National Network for Chairs of Headteacher Associations, a group that has direct access to NCSL, the DfE and Ofsted. *During the current pandemic the Professional Officer has “attended” regular meetings with Clare Kershaw, LA Officers and ASHE (the secondary heads’ association) to feedback concerns and to influence local and national policy.*

- **An annual Headteachers’ conference and a Deputy Headteachers’ conference.**
Two cut-price, high-quality conferences dedicated to developing and celebrating leadership in Essex, featuring national and local presenters in education. (These conferences are offered at a small additional cost for delegates.)
- **Expenses and reimbursement** for primary headteachers who represent colleagues on a wide and varied number of committees and working groups, including as Colleague Supporters.
- **A dedicated website for EPHA**
A website for Essex primary headteachers, with a wealth of information including minutes of key meetings and documents relating to schools and education, model policies, safeguarding resources, information from the Local Authority, Department for Education and good practice in education.
www.essexprimaryheads.co.uk
- **Training courses and resources**
EPHA offers an increasing number of free (or heavily subsidised) training courses and resources to primary headteachers. Courses in the last year have included training on exclusions and the equality act. In addition, EPHA produces a series of “7-minute staff meetings” on safeguarding and data protection issues – all available for free via the website.
- **A termly newsletter**
Informing headteachers of news and topical information, resulting from meetings and work carried out by EPHA officers and representatives.
- **Being part of a county wide professional association**
Whether or not a school is maintained, an academy (or a free school), all primary-phase headteachers and principals in Essex are automatically members of EPHA.

As the education landscape continues to change and becomes even more demanding, EPHA believes that the need for an over-arching strategic voice and a developed support network in Essex, plus FREE resources for headteachers and their schools, becomes more and more critical. Your contribution ensures that EPHA continues to go from strength to strength in supporting and representing headteachers across Essex.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Pam Langmead, EPHA Professional Officer, on 01621 786359 or at pam@langmead.me.uk if you need any further information.