

Redbridge Education Partnership

'Realising Everyone's Potential'

SEND FORUM MEETING NOTES

Wednesday 8th October 2025 @ 10.00am via Zoom

Present: Sue Blows, Steven Hogan, Jane Waters, Farzana Hussain, Aasiya ***, Julian Matthews, Andy Tarrant, Adrienne Wright, Kerry Sullivan, Alison Crispin, Chris Smaling, Koyer Ahmed and Angela Wellings.

Item	Notes and Actions	By Whom/When
1. Apologies for absence	Julie Anderson, Fawzia Govender	
2. Action notes of previous meeting		
3. Matters arising from notes of previous meeting	No matters arising.	
4. Area SEND inspection	Angela provided an update on the recent SEND area inspection and action plan: • The action plan is still with the DfE and negotiations are ongoing. • Five areas of priority action and six areas for improvement have been identified. • Groups are being established for each priority area. • A new SEND implementation board is being established: - o To be chaired by Chris Spencer, an experienced independent chair. - o He will have oversight of all priority actions and implementation progress. - o Membership will include representatives from primary, secondary, special schools, alternative provision and further education. - o The first meeting is scheduled for October 22nd.	

	• Chair raised concerns about the potential duplication of efforts. • Steven Hogan questioned the process for selecting representatives and ensuring appropriate accountability. • Chair suggested including feedback from this forum at the implementation board meetings. • Angela agreed to meet with Sue to discuss agenda setting and ensuring appropriate local authority attendance at future meetings.	Angela and Sue
5. HNF Working Party Update	Jane Waters raised concerns about interim funding. • Schools have received confirmation of interim funding but haven't received the actual funds. • There is a lack of schedules to check if money has been received. • There is a discrepancy between funding promises and actual receipts affecting provision for children. Chair highlighted issues for schools with falling rolls: • Three schools are receiving additional SEND children with complex needs. • The banding and financial allocation for these children does not meet the actual costs of provision. • Schools in challenging financial situations are struggling to subsidise the additional costs.	
6. Admissions	• Admissions data • ARP Vacancies • Out of Borough update • Prioritised pupils for Special School places • Exclusions and suspensions	
7. EHCP and Banding	Concerns were raised about the outdated current banding system. Koyer acknowledged that the £6,000 element is no longer sufficient. The public sector pay rises and increased costs have not been reflected in the banding levels. Koyer provided an update on funding issues: • There is a new finance lead, Sailesh Patel has recently joined the team. • Schools will receive data on the students with EHCPs in each year group for verification. • Request for schools to provide information for out of borough students with EHCP's. • Koyer will email all Headteachers about the funding situation and include information in the monthly newsletter.	Koyer

	- Sailesh Patel will be invited to the next meeting to discuss funding issues in detail. EHCP's - Koyer address the backlog of annual reviews: - A dedicated backlog team has been established. - Officers are instructed to complete a minimum of £500 worth of reviews per week. - Ensure reviews are fit for purpose, not just completing them. - A new quality assurance officer, Sarah Lewer, has been appointed to improve EHCP quality. - There are plans to introduce a new EHCP template. More compliant with legal requirements. - A presentation to head teachers is scheduled for the following Friday.	
8. Capital Projects	No discussion took place at this meeting.	
9. Educational Psychology	No discussion took place at this meeting.	
10. SERC Update	No discussion took place at this meeting.	
11. Social Care Support	No discussion took place at this meeting.	
12. Health update and implications	No discussion took place at this meeting.	
13. LA Therapy	No discussion took place at this meeting.	
14. OT Update Preparing for Adulthood	No discussion took place at this meeting.	
15. SENDATs update	- Updates on SENDAT services: - There has been positive feedback received from schools and families through end of year surveys. - Reviewing the home tuition offer and focusing on reintegrating children back into school settings. - There is reluctance to provide home tuition for children on part-time timetables. - Caseload stands at close to 3,000 pupils, an increase from the previous year.	

	- o Recent successful events – New to SENCo day and two-day LSA training. - o Plan is to roll out more LSA training in the future.	
16. REP Support offer	• Adrienne outlined several SEND-related initiatives being run by REP: - o MITA project: Working with leaders who have a strategic overview of SEND and offer support for learning support assistants. - o David Bartram project: SEND course including peer reviews after school SEND audits. - o Special School Open Week in November. An opportunity for mainstream colleagues to learn from special school expertise. - o Webinar led by Cat Halligan – Trauma Informed Approaches in Schools in November. - o 5P project: A supportive behaviour approach for children with complex needs and ASD. - o Positive handling training in November for Behaviour and Inclusion Leads at Hatton Special School.	
17. Any other business	Chair acknowledge the need to change the day of the meeting due to the lack of attendees. A google form or similar will be sent out to determine a new meeting date. Jane Waters expressed her gratitude for Sue's resilience in keeping the meetings accountable.	Rhonda
18. Date of future meetings:	Next meeting date to be confirmed (either December 1 st , 3 rd or 5 th)	