

VULNERABLE LEARNERS SUB GROUP MINUTES

27th May 2021
Microsoft Teams

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| CHAIR | Julia Jones – Headteacher - Barons Court Primary School |
| ATTENDEES | Brin Martin, Jackie Mullan, Sarah Greaves, Gary Bloom, Lisa Clark, Cathy Braun, Mark Aspel, Wendy Hackett, Julie Hollingsworth, Amanda Champ; |
| APOLOGIES | Sue Walsh, Steve Cornwall, Taz Sayed; Tom Dowler |
| ATTENDEES INVITED TO PRESENT | Victoria Coatsworth (Specialist School Nurse); Deborah Angel (SACC – Interim Tuition Service) |
| INVITED (DID NOT ATTEND) | Lesley Yelland |

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/ MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING/ NOTIFICATION OF AOB

| DISCUSSION | |
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| <p>Welcome to all.</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting on the 25th February 2021 were agreed as a true representation of the meeting.</p> <p>The sub-group noted the CLA report which was circulated to members as part of the minutes from the 25th February 2021.</p> <p>The sub group noted items of AOB as part of the SEND focus of the meeting: SEND Strategy Reporting and the new SEND banding stream report.</p> | |
| ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING IF NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
| <p>a) Information Sharing and feedback to Education Board – BM feedback to the group regarding liaison with the data team regarding information sharing difficulties within 4 local schools at the current time. Schools have identified agreement in principle is in place and the data team are working closely with schools. At present IT systems are not compatible with some schools and the data team are working on possible solutions. Data that does not have to be shared will not be collected, only what the schools are statutory obliged to share will be shared with the LA.</p> <p>b) Links with SPSG – BM fed back to the group that the SPSG are currently not collating school data for the current academic year, however a survey will be shared with schools to complete within the next half term.</p> <p>c) Review of the Social Prescribing content on the Local Offer - GB advised the sub group that the social prescribing information was on the Local Offer Website however was not prominent enough, this has now been amended.</p> <p>d) CME Action Plan - CB advised that no questions have been received prior to the meeting following the action plan which was circulated on 22nd March 2021. The VLSG discussed the process regarding submitting questions and sharing of reports. It was agreed the agenda will go out 2 to 3 weeks prior to the meeting with reports attached asking members to submit questions prior to the meeting so these can be looked at and ready for discussion.</p> | <p>VLSG Members JK/JJ</p> |

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| will collate and submit to the centre, inviting specialist to join the next VLSG meeting. | |
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ACCESS AND INCLUSION – COVID VULNERABLE LEARNERS UPDATE

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| DISCUSSION | |
| <u>ATTENDANCE</u> | |
| <p>Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting to all members for comments and questions. CB advised the group of classification regarding children abroad as following the previous meeting most families now would have returned. CB advised the information for schools is on the Southend Learning Network and the service is also providing individual advice to schools. There are still a few children who are still abroad, or on their way back and in quarantine. Current stance of the service is if absence exceeded 20 days but there is communication with the family, the code for absence to be used is X – unable to access due to covid restriction – the focus is to support families in the current situation. The VLSG requested clarity on the holiday requests during term time is needed for schools. BM advised the attendance of vulnerable group is being monitored and the DfE expectation is that all authorities should be looking at reinstating hierarchy of sanctions. CB asked that any questions regarding any specific advice on attendance are submitted to her and she will be able to report at the next meeting. CB asked that the request to look at attendance month by month statistically is more specific as the cohort is large and would not be helpful to look at.</p> <p>EHE report – CB gave a verbal update – as the report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There are no major changes from the previous meeting. CB will provide an update at the next VLSG on the total number of pupils supported back into schools following a period of EHE - currently 45% supported back into schools were new cases.</p> | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VLSG to submit request for specific questions on attendance to CB • EHE report at the next VLSG regarding pupils returning to schools. | <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> |

ACCESS AND INCLUSION – COVID VULNERABLE LEARNERS UPDATE

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| DISCUSSION | |
| <u>TUITION SERVICE</u> | |
| <p>SACC has been working hard to support and increase provision for vulnerable pupils through the tuition service and there has been an increase in numbers and challenges of mental health for a number of the pupils. The reports provided prior to the meeting were discussed. Concerns were expressed on the lack of evidence of moving forward as the majority of pupils accessing the service are secondary pupils, primary provision of the service was discussed in detail.</p> <p>CB advised there has been a challenge providing hours of education that is most suitable for pupils and that the offer has been expanded. It was noted challenges particularly around mental health without EWHMS support can be difficult and there is a need to support exit plans for pupils. CB advised it would be useful to have a representative from EWHMS on VLSG to discuss how we empower and support pupils moving on within their educational journey.</p> | |
| <u>PLT Reporting</u> | |
| <p>The reports provided prior to the meeting were discussed. MA reported on the PLT response to Covid-19. The school has provided a blended learning offer during the period and still has some remote learning being implemented – using this tool to engage pupils further. Attendance has improved and has increased by 54% and the number of part time timetables has reduced from 15 to 5. There have been meetings implemented with the Youth Offending team and the attendance team. The school is providing a strong curriculum which is a blend of core and ICT, Media – running vocational studies. Qualification level has increased by 38.9% pupils doing 5 plus qualifications. MA reported that Covid -19 has had a positive impact on the community – bringing people together – welfare and hardship fund has been set up where families that are struggling are able to get support. NEET figures have decreased – 4 pupils this year. All pupils received connexions advice and going forward MA hopes all are going to be attending some form of education or employment as the next stage of their educational journey. MA advised that the school has invested in the Virtual baby (Robot) – setting up a project around health and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse. The school have also linked in with local employers and trainers – Local Business providing bike maintenance classes – the course</p> | |

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| runs for 4 pupils at a time for 6 weeks where they build a bicycle they can keep at the end of the course. Further enrichment programmes are planned for the new academic year. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EWMHS representation at the next VLSG meeting. | JH |

ACCESS AND INCLUSION – COVID VULNERABLE LEARNERS UPDATE

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| DISCUSSION | |
| <p>SEND GB provided a comprehensive verbal report on the new SEND Banding and it was requested that the VLSG discuss the proposed paper and approve the submission in principle ready to be presented to Education Board for final approval. GB advised the new proposal is consistent, open and transparent and is an effective method of distributing high need resources. It was noted the new framework will provide clarity and structure on banding and implementation of high needs funding across all mainstream and special schools. The group reviewed the methodology for allocating funding and it was outlined that mainstream schools would receive a higher allocation of resources. The VSLG approved the proposal in principle and requested that the banding scheme papers are circulated to the group with the minutes of the meeting.</p> <p>CLA SG reported to the group that the current focus is on transition plans at the present time and the virtual school is working in partnership with schools to achieve this. At the present time CLA attendance is good, however is currently being monitored and evaluated following medical appointments which are currently being taken during school hours, particularly in secondary schools. It was also reported that fixed term exclusions are starting to increase and again this is being monitored by the virtual school. A developed system for attendance tracking is being implemented as this data is not currently live and is reported 3 times a year. It was reported that PEP compliance is good and all CLA young people are on school roll. The virtual school are capturing the provision of young people during Covid-19 and colleagues have tested out the voice of the child – piloting with Shoeburyness – with a particular focus on emotional health, well-being and support. The virtual school has also launched the Covid -19 recovery with schools – supporting 26 schools with some additional funding , the impact of this is monitored through professional dialogue with school leaders.</p> <p>NEET WH updated the VLSG on Post 16 NEET provision. A virtual event was held looking at all the services with a particular focus on careers advice and guidance – WH will update VLSG on how many pupils attended. The March figures have reduced from last year – Southend is in the top quartile. It was outlined that training providers were not implementing virtual classes until March – however expected drop outs from the courses have not happened and pupils stayed enrolled on the courses. WH advised the group that all Year 11 students are being sent a letter on how they can be supported with drop in sessions scheduled to provide further support.</p> | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GB to circulate the SEND banding papers with the minutes of the meeting. WH to provide the VLSG with how many pupils attended the virtual event which was held. | GB/JK WH |

PROPOSED DATES FOR MEETINGS

Thursday 14th October – 1.30-3.30pm
Thursday 2nd December – 1.30-3.30pm
Thursday 3rd February – 1.30-3.30pm
Thursday 28th April – 1.30-3.30pm
Thursday 23rd June – 1.30-3.30pm