

SSSAB Newsletter

Solihull Schools' Strategic Accountability Board

High Needs Block

It was reported that the Ed SEND Group was concerned about the High Needs Block which looks like it will be overspent. There may be more limited opportunities but if SSSAB has money available it could be used to fund training across the collaboratives. However, the problem for the shortfall in the High Needs Block is out of borough placements. Unless the cycle of sending children out of borough is stopped nothing will change. Money could be used by schools instead to provide specialised staff for those children.



Domestic Violence

Colleagues from Coventry and Solihull Police Service introduced 'Operation Encompass' which ensures schools receive relevant information about domestic incidents that have occurred over the last 24 hours, enabling schools to provide pastoral support to the child affected. The project was set up to comply with rules around information sharing and consent. Schools would need to find a way of finding a person who is legally employed by them to receive information on their behalf and, without involving a third party, share it with the relevant schools. (In Coventry, schools contribute a small financial cost to fund the post.) SSSAB were very much in favour of the project and it will now go through the LSCB Sub Group.

School Leadership

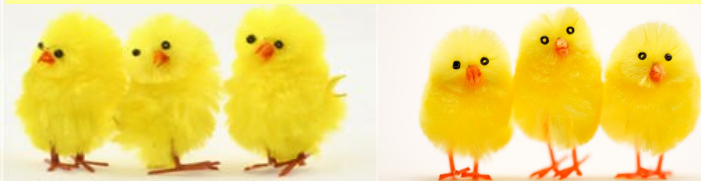
The School Leadership Working Group had agreed to discontinue any further meetings because much of its work, setting up middle leadership programmes, has been done. School Leadership will now be added as a standard agenda item on the School Improvement Group. A New Headteacher Induction Programme will come into force from September 2018.

LA Update

- Cabinet had approved the merging of Chapelfields and Daylesford Schools to form one primary school with effect from September 2018.
- Following the Local Area Inspection for SEND the LA was not issued with a notice to improve so the SEND Action Plan has been based on their findings.
- A council officers group is scoping out a Centre of Excellence for Autism. It was suggested that the group needs to include colleagues who are running schools as well as those advising schools.

Facilities Time

- The Facilities Time Group was looking at a scheme to reduce the cost and a new scheme would be launched after April.
- Access to HR policies, currently available to all schools whether they contribute to Facilities Time or not, would be raised at a forthcoming Forum Executive Meeting.



Peer to Peer Reviews

Emily Hughes' gave an overview of collegiate learning that could potentially replace peer to peer reviews. The School Improvement Group discuss this further.

Unity Leadership Programme

The School Leadership Working Group had been looking at developing a leadership training course for middle and senior leaders in collaboration with Teaching Schools. Selina Timmins had told the group about what is already available in Unity so the group asked if other collaboratives would be able to participate. There was discussion around facilitation and potentially using some SSSAB money to establish a wider group of facilitators across the LA and it was agreed that the concept would be introduced to headteachers at the next Heads' Partnership Meeting.

SMILE - Forest Oak Approach

Amanda Mordey gave an overview of SMILE which is based on 'NHS 5 ways to mental health & well-being' and has been made more accessible for young people in Forest Oak School. Schools are invited to take part in the research which involves one day of initial training, carrying out a questionnaire with staff and pupils and allowing research fellows to come in to the school.

The Key

Isabelle Goodman gave an overview of new developments at The Key. Concern was expressed around safeguarding in that schools have to comply with local requirements but it is not always clear where they differ from national requirements. Phil Leivers explained that the national documents give guidance and the practicalities are locally managed and agreed. Everyone agreed that they would like clarity around training.