

# SSSAB Newsletter

## Solihull Schools' Strategic Accountability Board

### Update from the Director of Children's Services and Skills

- Sally Hodges introduced Louise Rees who had been appointed to replace Sally in the role of DCS. Louise was invited to attend SSSAB meetings on a termly basis.
- SEND continues to face significant budgetary pressures this year.
- The Family Support Service goes live on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Frank McSheffrey will control targeted services for young people and Alison McGrory will oversee localities.
- There has been increasing pressure from the numbers of looked after children which have increased significantly in the last year.
- The budgets for next year and the coming three years have been set. Children's Services are now going to come in on budget at the end of March and it has been confirmed that additional money will remain in Children's Services for next year. This will give colleagues the opportunity to look at possibly investing in some SEND services.

### Heads' Partnership

Thursday 28 March 2019 - Ardencote Hotel

Sir John Jones will be speaking at the Heads' Partnership meeting on 28 March 2019.

Thursday 27 June 2019 - Manor Hotel

It is planned to continue the curriculum theme at the Heads' Partnership Meeting on 27 June 2019.

### Data Sharing Agreement

Kate Sirrett circulated an updated Data Sharing Agreement which gives the LA permission to share data earlier with Teaching Schools. Currently, the LA has to wait until data is published before sharing and then not at the level that Teaching Schools need to help schools. The document sets out principles in terms of sharing data with Solihull Teaching Schools, and the specific responsibilities of each of the partners.

SSSAB members agreed that they were happy with the new agreement and accept that it is the choice of each individual school to decide whether or not they want to sign up to it.

### Solihull Education Safeguarding Strategy

- Lorraine Lord shared the updated Solihull Education Safeguarding Strategy.
- There was discussion about representation at the Education Sub Group at the LSCB and dissemination of information back to collaboratives.
- There was an update about Single Central Records. Lorraine is writing a guide for Headteachers so they are aware what administrators have been told.

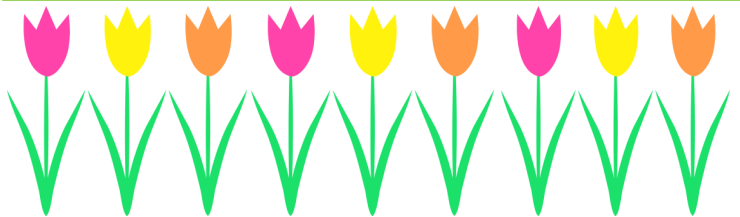
### School Support Staff Pay Awards

Adrian Cattell shared the background to the move towards a modified pay awards structure for support staff. Following feedback the structure had been reviewed and resulted in discussions about the introduction of a transition period to phase in the structure for Band D.

SSSAB stated that the changes would have serious cost implications for schools. Whilst they were accepting of them, they felt that the cost would have a big impact on future recruitment and affordability of staff. The grades having the greatest impact on costs were C and D and Adrian was asked to consider transitional arrangements for Band C as well as Band D.

### LA Update

- Andrew Warren had been appointed to the post of Regional Schools Commissioner West Midlands.
- A third Education Psychologist had started in post.
- The LA's annual meeting with the Regional Lead for Ofsted in the West Midlands and senior HMIs had taken place.
- The Young Carers' Promise had been renewed.



### Update from Councillor Ken Meeson

- Representatives from one of Solihull's twin towns, Main-Taunus-Kreis in Germany, had visited the borough. They are keen to develop links with schools in Solihull.
- Solar aim to have a four week limit for child referrals with urgent cases being referred much quicker.
- The outcome of Solihull's bid for a special autism school was due in the Spring.

### Pre Key Stage Standards and Development Wall

Amanda Mordey introduced a tracking system that had been developed to support SEND children. SSSAB members were keen to explore the possibility of funding the system for all schools for English and Maths initially.

### Teaching School - SEND Proposal

Andy Simms had proposed returning to the original plan of managing the SEND proposal within HOSTA with a view to SSSAB potentially providing some funding in the future. This was agreed.