

# **REPORT BY SSSAB FOR PRESENTATION AT THE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Date of SSSAB meeting: Tuesday 22 September 2020**

Items discussed (brief summary of key items):

## **Updates from the Education Psychology Service**

- The DfE had put together an education return package and the EP service had been asked to lead on the development of training. Dr Louisa Jones sought feedback with SSSAB about the best way to progress this.
- Funding had been agreed for one full-time EP and two Assistant EPs to put together a pathway for children at risk of or experiencing emotionally based school non-attendance. LJ asked for feedback on how best to engage with schools.

## **Public Health Update**

- Ruth Tennant gave an update about the current Coronavirus situation in Solihull.
- There was a discussion about the possibility for the Community Nursing Team to assist special schools with obtaining viable swabs from pupils with suspected coronavirus.

## **Troubled Families**

The Troubled Families programme has rolled over another year and they were asking schools to make referrals for families they have been working with so that the programme can claim payment by results funding for historic family work which has been undertaken and secure services for families going forward.

## **Safeguarding Update**

Lorraine Lord thanked schools for their commitment to the processes put in place during lockdown and informed the group that the Child Protection and Safeguarding policies, plus the Safeguarding Awareness training had been updated. SSSAB agreed that it would be appropriate for the DSL group to approve any changes to the 157 Audit, an update of the Prevent Audit and a summary report to replace the single central record.

## **HR Update**

- Child Care Issues – Positive Covid 19 Cases - SSSAB agreed that schools would not be able to pay a member of staff to stay at home for the 14 day isolation period in the event their child has been sent home due to a breached bubble and they have no suitable alternative childcare. In the event of this happening the member of staff will be required to take unpaid leave.
- School Apprenticeships – SSSAB agreed that schools would consider adopting the same rates of pay as core council apprentices in the next financial year.
- Leave of Absence Policy - SSSAB agreed for the updated policy to be circulated to schools.
- Draft Policies – SSSAB agreed to liaise with their collaboratives for volunteers to attend sub-groups for updates for the Domestic Abuse, Managing Allegations, Employee Volunteering and Resolution Policies.
- SSSAB requested a flowchart for headteachers to use for step changes for vulnerable members of staff returning to work plus a Covid specific appendix to the Maternity Policy.
- AA was asked to arrange for a Protocol for Visitors to be incorporated it into a HR document.

## **SEND Equipment Policy**

SSSAB reviewed the Solihull Equipment for Educational Settings Guidance document. Leads were asked to discuss the following items with their collaboratives:

- What to do with equipment when a child has finished with it but it is still fit for purpose: It was being proposed that if a piece of equipment is still fit for purpose it should be cleaned, maintained and transition with the child, with the new school paying an amount for the equipment depending on its age.
- Equipment Log: It was being proposed to have a log agreement between the LA and the school with the equipment in school being covered by the school's insurance.
- Equipment Storage: A process for storing equipment within schools was being proposed with a centralised system through SISS. There had been a discussion about a central store but there was no suitable location.

Members of SSSAB reported difficulties in obtaining insurance for individual pieces of equipment. It was suggested that the LA could insure all the equipment rather than schools taking out individual policies.

## **LA Update**

Clair McNeill provided an update and the following items were agreed:

- SSSAB agreed that they would welcome guidance around Headteachers' performance management to be issued as soon as possible.
- Due to coronavirus, it was agreed to cancel the Deputy Heads' Conference in October 2020, Heads' Partnership in November 2020 and Heads' Conference in January 2021. There was no requirement to hold SSSAB meetings more frequently than already scheduled.
- Collaboratives would consider reinstating attendance at collaborative meetings of their affiliated advisers.
- SSSAB agreed that any guidance from the LA would be useful including FAQs and more information for parents about who can do what so that every school receives the same message.

## **Collaborative Updates**

- Issues arising on top of the Covid situation to be discussed at the next SSSAB meeting.
- It was agreed that a group of people to share best practice for home learning would be established.

## **Monitoring Statement - Update**

It was noted that SSSAB would not be receiving any income from the LA this year or in the future and it was agreed that schools would not be asked to contribute to Partnership funds in 2020/2021.