

# REPORT BY SSSAB FOR PRESENTATION AT THE FORUM MEETING ON 8 DECEMBER 2020

**Date of SSSAB meeting: Tuesday 17 November 2020**

Items discussed (brief summary of key items):

## **Chair's Actions**

Louise Minter gave updates on groups she attends in her capacity as Chair of SSSAB. These are: Ed SEND, Mental Health Transformation Board, Virtual Governing Body and the Health & Well-Being Board.

## **SSSAB 2020-2021**

- **Online SSSAB Group:** It was agreed that the smaller online group was being effective and the best way for members of the wider SSSAB group not present at the online meetings to have a voice during the pandemic would be to continue sending them a copy of the minutes.
- **School Improvement Group:** The future of the School Improvement group would be influenced by changes brought in as part of Reshaping Education.
- **Collaborative Forward Plans:** It was agreed that, in the current situation, it was more important for collaborative meetings to focus on the flow of information, support and Headteacher mental health and well-being. The weekly Schools Cell meeting now had representation from each collaborative and was the appropriate platform for raising any issues related to the pandemic.
- **Half-termly collaborative meetings with LA Officers**  
Half termly collaborative meetings for Headteachers with LA officers were being set up.
- **Heads' Conference**  
It was agreed that Headteacher well-being is a priority and a one day virtual Heads' Conference would be held in January or February 2021.

## **Monitoring Statement**

There had not been any change to the monitoring statement since the previous SSSAB meeting and there were no queries. It was likely that schools would be asked to contribute to Heads' Partnership in 2021-2022.

## **LA Update**

- Whilst numbers of Coronavirus infections have increased they are still small numbers. Schools are really safe and the borough was being recognised nationally as class leading.
- Reshaping Education: TB would be visiting all collaboratives.
- The new Head of SEND was due to start on 25 November and a new START Team Manager was due to start in January.
- Clair McNeill had been trying to establish with HMI when inspections would restart but they would not give a view and said January to which CMc had expressed concern about schools waiting for inspection.
- Work is being done around reinstating school improvement work from January.
- Work is being done on a virtual inset package which it is hoped will be out before Christmas.
- Governor training has been running virtually which is very successful.
- A new induction package for new Headteachers is being pulled together and will be delivered virtually.
- Work is being done on guidance for visitors to schools.
- The Council website is being overhauled to ensure information is current.

## **HR Update**

- Clinically extremely vulnerable members of staff who need to stay at home should have received a letter from their GP or the NHS. They have to be paid even if there is no work for them to do from home.
- The Individual Risk Assessment has been updated and is on the extranet for those who are clinically vulnerable but can be at work. Colleagues were urged to speak to their HR adviser with any issues.
- Some clinically extremely vulnerable staff want to go to work and there is a declaration form for them to sign.
- It was agreed that it would be useful to have weekly HR updates added to Headlines on Wednesdays.
- Furlough has been extended to the end of March 2021. Guidance forms have been updated.
- Guidance was given about recording staff absence due to self-isolating on Oracle.
- The new Resolution Policy is being drawn up.
- Details about recruitment and the impact of Brexit will be sent out.

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### **Combined Services Monitoring**

- SSSAB had been asked to take on the monitoring of school sports, health and safety training, records manager and safeguarding training.
- Members of SSSAB reported that academies had been informed that the LA would not provide them with a health and safety service after December 2020. It was unclear whether the package was for maintained schools only even though Combined Services was top sliced from all schools including academies.
- Members of SSSAB expressed disappointment that the LA would no longer fund school sport.

### **Safeguarding Update**

- The Safeguarding Training Strategy had been finalised.
- Schools were reminded to be mindful of the Prevent agenda now that the terrorism threat level has been raised to severe.

### **Supply Teacher Agency**

The Procurement Service was pursuing a relationship between CCS (Crown Commercial Supplies) and schools in Solihull in order to achieve better rates for supply staff.

### **Corporate Health & Safety Board – Update**

- Leon Chamberlain is the representative for Headteachers on the board.
- There is still resistance to the new Health & Safety way of reporting accidents, however, it is still going ahead.
- All accidents and incidents across the council are reported to the board.
- There was discussion about risk assessments and extremely vulnerable colleagues in the Council House.
- HSE drop-ins had taken place and had an impact on schools with schools coming out of them very well.
- There had been no discussion at all about academies not being able to go in to the LA Health and Safety package. JD will bring SSSAB's concerns around this up at the next meeting in January.

### **NAHT Update**

- Secondary school representation is needed on the group.
- The NAHT is represented at the weekly Schools Cell meetings.
- A petition is being run around funding, and funding Covid, which Headteachers and members of school staff are encouraged to sign

### **NQT Steering Group**

Representatives were being requested from each collaborative to join an NQT steering group.

### **Governors**

It was agreed that a small group would pull together a support guide for all governors, sharing good practice and ideas with case studies and examples especially in relation to Headteacher well-being.

Louise Minter/27.11.20