

SEND Funding Task & Finish Group

Notes of key points raised at the meeting held on 14 January 2015 at Severdale Specialist Academy.

In attendance

Chris Davies, Gwyneth Evans, Tim Baker, Julia Dean, Ruth Thomas, Phil Wilson, Janice Stackhouse, Yvette McDaniel, Jo Humphreys and Garry Dean.

1. Apologies were received from Robin Wilson, Pete Johnstone, Rob Carlyle, Kay Redknap and Paul Nicholson.
2. Actions from the meeting on 19 November 2014:
 - Pete Johnstone has indicated that he is prepared to be part of the group, representing secondary schools.
 - Garry Dean has joined the group as the SEN hub leader.
 - Chris reported that Gloucestershire, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire are working on a combined response to the call for evidence, while a representative group of special schools from across the country will be doing the same.
 - Ruth reported that she was involved in a national response on behalf of the 16-19 sector providers.
 - Janice reported that the West Midlands group of LAs will be submitting a joint response.
 - Individual Shropshire based providers will be submitting their own responses – this was encouraged so that the Department is able to get a better understanding of the challenges facing the county from the widest range of perspectives.
 - It was agreed that the Group members will contribute to the response on behalf of the local authority and Shropshire Schools Forum, including sharing their own submissions and forwarding copies of any other submissions and evidence they receive.
Action: Group members to continue gathering and sharing intelligence, information and data to support an overall Shropshire response. This includes sharing draft and/or final submissions for their own institutions.
3. The Group spent some time going through each of the 18 questions, clarifying their understanding of the issues and flagging up evidence that could be used.
4. It was agreed that all Group members will complete the previously circulated template for the 18 questions and feed these back to Phil and Gwyneth who will take on the co-ordination role for the Shropshire submission. Drafts of the collated responses will be shared electronically with Group members – it is not anticipated that the Group will meet again before the submission date of 27 February.
Action: Group members to return completed templates by Friday 6 February 2015.

Action: Phil/Gwyneth to co-ordinate the collated responses to be circulated and redrafted as required – all electronically - with a view to the finalised version being submitted by 27 February 2015.

5. Phil informed the group of the call for evidence seminars being arranged by the Department for Education on 2, 3 and 4 February 2015. It was agreed that Phil and Julia will attend the 3 February seminar in Nottingham.

Action: Phil and Julie to attend seminar on 3 February 2015 and feedback any useful information to Group members.

6. No further meetings have been planned. The future work programme of the Group will be largely dictated by the Department's timetable, noting that there is unlikely to be much further progress on SEND funding reforms until after the General Election in May 2015.