

KENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNER BULLETIN 15 - 2007

Dear Colleagues,

We have started the year very well with all phases now in the national programme and most of our SIPs have achieved accreditation or are towards the end of the process. We are all aware of how demanding the Autumn terms are for our improvement partners especially those with a large number of schools and settings. Please let us know if you require any support to fulfil your SIP role this term.

We have now made some new appointments and I am pleased to inform you that the following advisers will be co-ordinating the SIP Programmes in their phase:

Julia Scannell - Secondary schools
Rosemary Ferguson - Primary schools
Diana Robinson - Special schools

We are also introducing improvement partners to our Early Years Settings and Colleen Marin will be leading in this phase.

We have had very good feedback on the implementation of our SIP Programme in all phases and our next stage of development is to improve the quality assurance and performance management of SIPs.

With very best wishes from
Peggy Harris, Head of Service Development, ASK

SPECIAL BRIEFINGS and CPD

Following discussion at the last Special SIP Briefing it was agreed to return to a combined Special and Primary Briefing. Diana will share any specific issues with you during the briefings.

PRIMARY and SPECIAL SCHOOL BRIEFINGS and CPD

7 January 2008

Cambridge Room, Holiday Inn - Ashford North
or

14 January 2008

Thomas Neame Room, East Malling Conference Centre
or

17 January 2008

Amber Room, St Augustines, Westgate-on-Sea

9.15 Optional Workshop on Interpreting the Data

This will be a repeat of the very well received Data workshop held in Term 1 and is relevant for all SIPs.

11.00 Optional Workshop on How to present summary data to OfSTED (New session)

12.15 Buffet Lunch

13.00 SIP Briefing

- Review of the Autumn visit and reporting
- Preparation for the Spring visit 2008 and agreeing changes to the note of visit
- Feedback from National training day on Schools Causing Concern
- OfSTED update
- Overview of the Primary Strategy National Programmes
- Commissioning support
- Quality assurance of SIPs

16:15 Cluster Networking

Please ensure that you attend the briefing for your Cluster. Our locality focus will be: **Cluster Priorities and Cluster Development Plans**

Primary and Special dates for the rest of the year

28 April 2008

Cambridge Room, Holiday Inn - Ashford North
or

30 April 2008

Thomas Neame Room, East Malling Conference Centre
or

6 May 2008

Amber Room, St Augustines, Westgate-on-Sea
and

2 July 2008

Thomas Neame Room, East Malling Conference Centre
or

8 July 2008

Oak Room, St Augustines, Westgate-on-Sea
or

10 July 2008

Cambridge Room, Holiday Inn - Ashford North

SECONDARY and PRU BRIEFINGS and CPD

9 January 2008

Larkfield Suite, Hilton Hotel, Maidstone

(Please note the change of venue due to the refurbishment at the Tudor Park)

9.15 **Optional workshop** 14-19 Developments (including a tour through the on-line module) led by Jennie Thomas.

11.15 **Optional workshop** -the key issues for SIPs on the management of school finance led by Nigel Blackburn.

12.30 Buffet Lunch

13.30 - 16:30 SIP Briefing

- Review of the Autumn visit and reporting
- Preparation for the Spring visit 2008 and agreeing changes to the note of visit
- New Secondary Curriculum -presentation
- Quality assurance and Performance management
- Feedback on national theme days
- Agreeing optional workshops Summer 2008

Secondary/PRU Briefing dates for the rest of the year:

12 May 2008

Bearsted Room, Marriott Tudor Park Hotel, Maidstone
and

17 July 2008

Bearsted Room, Marriott Tudor Park Hotel, Maidstone

National Theme Days

We like to have representation at these events. We would normally expect one or two Kent SIPs to attend who will then be expected to provide feedback at the next briefing. In the event of a theme day being considered appropriate for all SIPs we will arrange a session to be held in Kent.

Secondary and PRU SIP Theme Days

11 December 2007: Pupil Referral Units (Bob Macfarlane, Fran Pass and Chris Berry to attend on our behalf)

5 March 2008: Ethnicity and Social Class Achievement (ESCA) –attendance will be agreed at the January Briefing so please let us know if you wish to represent us

Primary and Special Theme Days

8 January 2008: Early Years (If you are interested in attending this session can you please let Rosemary Ferguson know before replying to your individual invite so attendance can be co-ordinated)

CPD and Briefings

You are expected to undertake 4 days per year of CPD and this includes:

- 4 half-day mandatory briefings
- optional workshops
- online modules and national theme days

Please keep your individual record of attendance at briefings and other events so that you can share this during discussions about your Performance Management.

ePDs

New electronic professional development modules are currently being developed and include:

Closing the Attainment Gap
Use of conversion data
Financial Management
Effective Use of ICT
Specialist school re-designation
Data in Special Schools

KEY STAGE 1 MODERATION

25% of Kent primary schools will receive a moderation visit in 2008 including schools:

- in OfSTED category
- that have amalgamated
- whose only Yr 2 teacher is a NQT
- selected randomly in the 4-year cycle

If you think any of your schools need a moderation visit please let Margo Barraclough know including the reasons why.

FOCUS FOR SCHOOL VISITS IN SPRING TERMS 3 and 4 to include:

- Review of progress towards the key priorities in the school plan.
- Discussion of the arrangements the school has put in place for monitoring the quality of provision and to agree the SEF judgements for Section 5.
- Review of progress towards the statutory targets for 2008.

Other Notes of Visits (for SIPs to record visits that are in addition to the 3 mandatory visits each year)

The ASK general NOV template has been revised and will shortly be circulated for immediate use. There is now a new heading "Progress on actions since the last visit." It is very important that all NOV are attached to EPM so please seek support if you are having difficulties in posting your NOV on the system.

PRIMARY ROUND TABLE MEETINGS

SIPs are required to convene and chair these meetings in all schools that are involved in the Quest Project, ISP, RAYS, Ensuring Success* and Category Schools. A pro-forma is attached to this bulletin which should be used to record the minutes from these meetings. This replaces any need to complete a NOV.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Please remember to keep Tracy updated on the progress of your national accreditation application to enable us to update the SIP National database.

Rosemary Ferguson and Beverley Sulway are continuing to run Primary workshops to support colleagues through the accreditation process.

Primary Workshops to support on-line assessment:

25 January 2008 1.30 - 3.30 at Five Acre Wood
7 March 2008 1.30 - 3.30 at Five Acre Wood

Primary Workshop to support the residential two day event:

18 January 2008 2 - 4pm at Five Acre Wood
(Please let Tracy know if you would like to attend)

For **secondary** colleagues undertaking the accreditation process please contact Pippa Doran for advice and for **special** school colleagues please contact Diana Robinson.

OFSTED

List 99 and CRB checks. Just a reminder that Ofsted expect all governors to be list 99 checked and all members of staff must be CRB checked.

Ofsted recently published useful guidance for inspectors on the use of performance data which provides some good information about attainment on entry and achievement in the Early Years and KS1. Please use the link provided at the end of this bulletin.

Please make sure that headteachers are aware of the need to contact you upon receipt of the Ofsted phone call so you can support them through the process and attend the feedback

ICT Mark and Ofsted outcomes

Schools that are accredited with the ICT Mark are:

- 4 times more likely to be rated as 'outstanding' in the overall effectiveness of the school category
- 3 times more likely to be rated as 'outstanding' in the achievement and standards category
- 3 times more likely to be rated as 'outstanding' in the leadership and management category
- 4 times more likely to be rated as 'outstanding' in the teaching and learning category

SIP ATTENDANCE AT OFSTED FEEDBACK

Please provide detailed notes from the feedback making sure that you accurately record the judgements and key issues for development. These notes are important and used by Carol Parsons to write a personal letter to the school.

Please alert your school to the following:

CROSS PHASE Leadership Conference for Headteachers and Governors to explore issues around succession planning and new models of leadership and governance

13 February 2008, Ashford International

SCHOOL CENTRE and INDEX of ACHIEVEMENT

Wincheap School in Canterbury has been using School Centre for four months and already feel it is having an impact on making the School Improvement Plan dynamic and linking it to the SEF.

Initially a trainer came and spent half a day in school setting up the software to match the school's requirements and trained senior staff. Following this senior staff introduced the system to teaching staff and gave them an opportunity to explore the software.

There is a real enthusiasm amongst curriculum leaders as they are now able to update progress against action plans regularly, making the plan a real working document and ensuring that timescales do not slip. They see this as a way of showing senior leaders the development as they happen. At curriculum meetings minutes are attached to the system and are then instantly accessible to everyone. "Adding information is as easy as adding an attachment to an email", says Val Clough the Headteacher.

The school has started to build a resource bank of documentation and evidence to support statements in the SEF and also are beginning to use the Index of Achievement to measure children's progress in the wider curriculum.

The School Improvement Partner has read-only access to this alongside school governors, who can then monitor school development from a distance. The next step is introducing the Blog to communicate comments, questions and requests.

Val is happy to talk to anyone who would like more information, or to demonstrate the software.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STANDARD IN SCHOOLS

The first tranche of Primary Schools have now been identified for training on the new financial standard (see attached links)

http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/communication/ebulletindetail.cfm?eb_bulletinid=2138

http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Finance-Assessment/cfe_fin_fmsis.cfm

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Do you know the following outcomes for Looked After Children in Kent schools in 2007:

12.1% achieved 5 GCSEs or equivalent at A* -C

39.3% achieved 5 GCSEs or equivalent at A*-G

in October 2007 33% of looked after children in the previous Year 11 were not in full time education, part-time or full-time training or employment

in 2006/7 it took on average 7.5 weeks for a looked after child to access a school place (this was an improvement from an average of 12 weeks in 2005/6)

in 2007 15.6% of Kent Looked after children missed 25 or more days of schooling. In 2006 the figure was 22%, compared to 13.4% of looked after children nationally

DCSF expects School Improvement Partners to challenge these outcomes and to ask specific questions to school leaders on the actions they are taking to improve the life-chances of this most vulnerable group. Please ensure that you have had discussions with headteachers about the identification, actions and impact of their work with children in care.

You will also need to be aware of the following:

The Kent Pledge for Children and Young People In Care

Kent County Council understands that being in care and leaving care isn't always easy and that it can bring additional challenges and pressures for you. If we are to get it right for you we need to make a real difference to help you achieve your best and gain success in your life.

Our pledge includes a number of promises to you that will help make sure that your time in care is a positive experience. These are based around 6 themes:

- a sense of belonging
- a consistent adult in your life
- a good education
- good memories for the future
- preparation for adulthood
- champion your needs and interests

We are making a pledge to you because you are a child/young person in care or leaving care living in Kent.

CLUSTERS

It is anticipated that 23 Local Children's Trust-like arrangements will be in place by September 2008. Each Local Trust will establish a Board and develop a Local Children and Young People's Plan to implement the ECM outcomes. This will include both county and local objectives and further resources will be devolved to localities to meet these priorities. School Improvement Partners will be updated on these developments in the Summer Briefings.

6 LOCAL LEARNING NETWORKS ACROSS KENT

Advisory Service Kent is increasingly deploying its resources for training and development on a locality basis to meet identified local needs and to avoid duplication. Each Local Learning Network is made up of 4 Clusters who are beginning to plan events and projects across the network to meet the CPD needs of all staff. For Information on Local Learning Networks please use the following links.

Ashford & Shepway:

http://clusterweb.org.uk/UserFiles/ASK/File/LLN/Issue_One/Ashford/LLN_Inter-Ashford_0907.pdf

Canterbury & Swale:

http://clusterweb.org.uk/UserFiles/ASK/File/LLN/Issue_One/Canterbury_Swale/LLN_Inter-Canterbury_0907.pdf

Maidstone & Malling:

http://clusterweb.org.uk/UserFiles/ASK/File/LLN/Issue_One/Maidstone_Malling/LLN_Inter-Maidstone_0907.pdf

North West Kent:

http://clusterweb.org.uk/UserFiles/ASK/File/LLN/Issue_One/North_West_Kent/LLN_Inter-NW-Kent_0907.pdf

Thanet & Dover:

http://clusterweb.org.uk/UserFiles/ASK/File/LLN/Issue_One/Thanet_Dover/LLNInter-Thanet_0907.pdf

West Kent:

http://clusterweb.org.uk/UserFiles/ASK/File/LLN/Issue_One/West_Kent/LLN_Inter-West-Kent_0907.pdf

National Register for Gifted and Talented Learners

We are very pleased that Kent schools have identified their gifted and talented learners for the national register. Do you know how many learners have been identified in your SIP schools and how they are being supported?

Modern Foreign Languages at Key Stage 4 - Information for School Improvement Partners

You will be aware of the high level of concern about the decline in uptake of languages and the recent review carried out by Lord Dearing to consider ways to increase the take-up of languages post-14.

The DCSF has identified schools where the take-up of languages is below 25%, or where it has fallen by over 30 percentage points in the past two years.

Secondary SIPs to check with Senior Secondary Advisers to see if your schools are on this list.

Next SIP Bulletin:

If you have anything you wish to be included please email to tracy.benn@kent.gov.uk in Term 3.

Thank you for everyone who has provided items for this bulletin

USEFUL LINKS and DOCUMENTS

Inspection Matters

Issue 15:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/Internet_Content/Shared_Content/IIFD/Files/im_15.pdf

Issue 16:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/Internet_Content/Shared_Content/IIFD/Files/im_16.pdf

Guidance for inspectors on the use of data school performance data

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/Internet_Content/Shared_Content/IIFD/Files/GuidanceForInspectorsOnTheUseOfSchoolPerformanceData.doc

The Quality Assurance of Section 5 Inspections by HMI: Procedure

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/Internet_Content/Shared_Content/IIFD/Files/qa_s5_hmi_oct07.pdf

Primary National Strategy e newsletter

You can subscribe to the newsletter using the following link:

<http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primary/newsletter/>

Advisory Service Kent Web-pages

All handouts and guidance are also available on the Improvement and Inclusion web-page

<http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/ask/improve-home.html>