

**Actions from the  
MELA and LA Partnership meeting  
on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

**Attendees – Ian Sutherland, Rebecca Smith, Barry Symons, Cllr Potter, David Watkins, Cllr Isles, Dora Indresano, Rishi Boyjoonauth, Kevin Smart, Katie Watson (action minute taker)**

**Apologies – Matt Harris, Dean Brewer, Kathy Sexton**

MELA strategic priorities

- Carole Campbell (MCH) attended the Primary Head's meeting. NELFT are due to attend a Secondary Head's meeting. Michael Griffiths is attending MELA on Friday 24 January. **Action - Ian suggested a meeting is set up to discuss this with the Commissioning leads Aelish Geldenhuys, Michael Griffiths, Andy Willetts and Emma Block, Rishi to contact Aelish.**
- Rebecca spoke about the commitment that LA officers have to working in partnership with education leaders, supporting their work, strengthening networks, promoting school – to - school working and aiding the development of system leadership.
- Discussion focused on the work undertaken since the beginning of the current academic year with each of the four primary zones and with the MELA executive, making reference to working papers that had been shared with headteachers at the meetings including reports that highlighted strengths, priorities for improvement alongside contextual information that could lead towards further activity within individual zones, raising discussion about planned next steps.
- Rishi explained that he does not believe it is the role of MELA to encourage schools to undertake school improvement discussions. David stated that he believes there needs to be a balance of support and challenge to schools from both the LA and from MELA and that both hold responsibility for doing this. Ian advised that the Regional Schools Commissioner also holds responsibility for this and that the LA continues to work with the RSC and her team to discuss performance and standards on a regular basis. Rishi and Kim re-iterated that it should not be down to MELA and MSHA to tell schools what they should be doing. **Action – Rishi will discuss this at MELA meeting on Friday (24<sup>th</sup> Jan) and gain the view of other headteachers.**

SEND re-visit

- Ian reported that verbal feedback has been received, the final report / letter is anticipated shortly. There will be a further period of monitoring for 12 months.

Children's Social Care – signs of safety training

- **Action – Ian advised that he would put together a briefing note that will be shared with the board at forthcoming meeting.**
- Ian advised that Medway would soon be working in partnership with Essex County Council on Early Help and setting up an Early Help Strategic Board and would like a primary head to attend – Rishi is happy with this – **Action – Rishi to nominate a representative.**

### Transition:

- Rebecca advised that the *Positive Behaviour Support* programme is underway as a pilot, evidenced based approach to managing challenging behaviour. This has been brokered by Public Health who have invited the School Improvement Team to liaise with schools in meeting with The Centre for the Advancement of PBS in order to ascertain it's appropriateness within the education sector through a Medway pilot.
- Rishi advised that the existing transition form had caused several issues. A small working party have amended the form that will be shared with MELA this Friday (24<sup>th</sup> Jan). Dympna Lennon is going to talk to Robert Lancaster in the Admissions Team about him being the point of call for the completed forms to be sent to once this new form is approved. **Action: Rishi to forward the amended transition form to David.**

### Mental Health

- *The Link* programme: Rebecca advised that there has been a 65% uptake from schools for this fully funded offer as a result of a successful bid placed by the LA. As the LA lead on this programme, Emma Block has circulated this information to all schools and that the sessions are already underway. Rishi advised that he would promote this opportunity it as much as possible through MELA as well – **Action – Rishi will circulate and promote the original information to headteachers.**

### Primary Fair Access Panel

- At the last meeting, one school that were unable to attend had sent through their contextual data to be discussed but they don't feel that it was discussed enough. Kim advised that at Secondary FAP, if a head teacher can't attend the meeting, they normally send a representative in their place. Kim invited Rishi to attend the Secondary meeting on Thursday 23 January.
- Rishi advised that the dates for the next meetings hasn't come out yet – **Action – David to liaise with Rob Lancaster in order to set dates.**

Date of next meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 8am to 9.30am, Gun Wharf