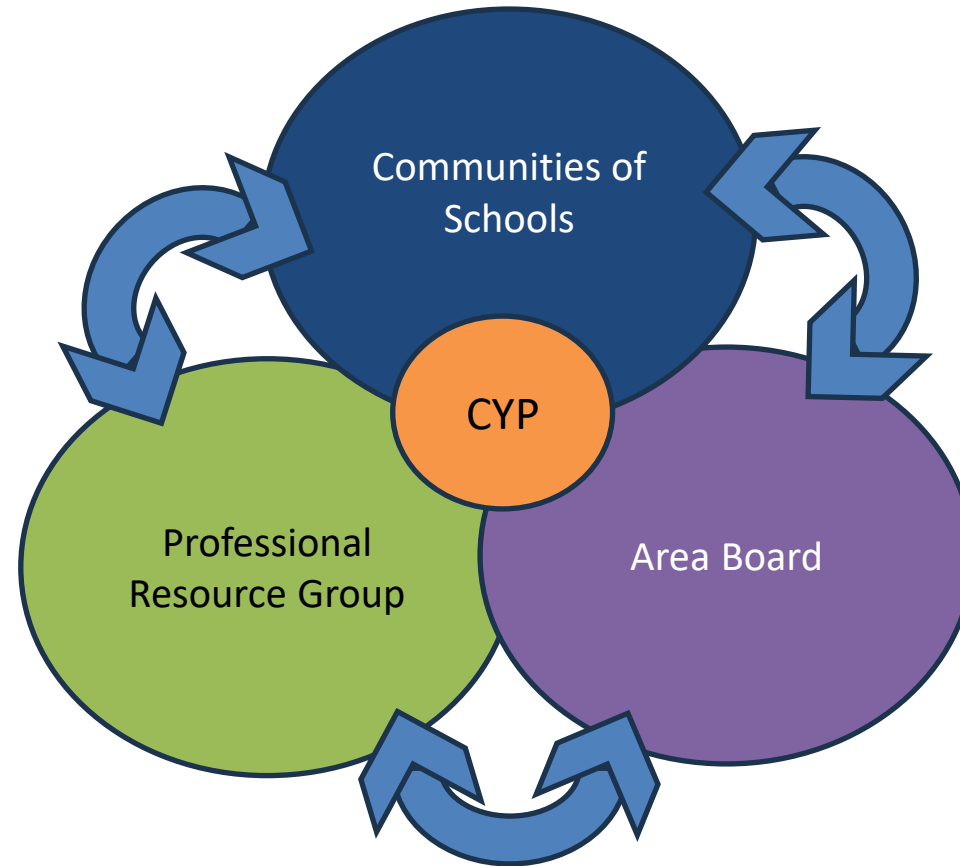


COMMUNITIES OF SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCALITY MODEL

VIRTUAL KEEPING IN TOUCH MEETINGS

19th May 2025

Meeting Needs Locally



Communities of Schools – Induction into a new way of working



- Community Induction Meetings took place between 28th April and 9th May 2025
- Attendance of over 500 Kent Schools

Purpose

Meet the chairs.

Establish relationships and get to know context

Share documentation and process

Ensure consistency of messaging.

[Communities of Schools Induction Meetings – Slides](#)

Training has been offered by the Educational Psychology team to support different approaches to provision to the Communities.

Communities of Schools



- 3 CoS chair induction meetings were held - January to March 2025
- 4 area-based CoS Induction meetings – April to May 2025
- 1 virtual CoS Induction meeting – May 2025
- 1 Community Chair KiT (Keeping in Touch) meeting – 17th July 2025

CoS Supporting Documentation:

- [Operational Guidance](#)
- [Terms of Reference](#)
- [Community Budget Summary](#)

A full list of who the chair is for each community will be on Kelsi very soon.

1st Community Meetings – June and July

- [Terms of reference](#) and [Operating guidance](#)
- Reminder of Agreed Principles – April 2023
- [Inclusion Dashboard](#) – what is it telling you and what updates are needed?
- Planning for the future – what do we have and how do we make best use of it?
Whole school provision review? [Link practitioners](#).
- Preparation to use a [solution-focused approach](#) to requests
- [SEN notional budgets](#) – is the guidance understood?
- [Community budget information](#) – Kelsi
- SEN IAs will be in attendance for these meetings to take immediate feedback to KCC for review before September



Community Meetings June/July

- During your June/July Community meetings you will confirm your dates for meetings over the next academic year following the cycle detailed (Ideally within the first two weeks of Sept, Nov, Dec, Jan, Mar, May, Jun)
- The chairs will have Keeping In Touch meetings throughout this transition year in Nov '25, Feb '26, Apr '26 and Jul '26

Professional Resource Group

The Professional Resource Group (PRG) is a group that:

- Supplies additional resources that schools may require in supporting their children and young people with SEN
- Teams can be contacted **directly** by schools, as required, without the need to approach your community, request formal diagnoses or complete lengthy referral applications

Link Practitioner details on Kelsi – [Professional Resource Group - KELS](#)

FAQs

- We received over 250 questions and comments
- FAQ document on Kelsi updated for Term 6
- Common themes around:
 - Operations of CoS meetings, including who should attend
 - Messaging to parents & carers
 - Funding & budgeting (especially Year R)*
 - Professional Resources Group
 - Link practitioner model



* Funding FAQs will also be updated on Kelsi

FAQs 'most asked' spotlight

Many questioned KCC's statement that only one person per school should attend and it should be the SENCo (or an inclusion lead with decision-making authority)

- In other LAs running similar models it works best when the SENCo attends
- It is ultimately school's decision who will represent them
- The attendee does NOT require in-depth budget knowledge
- The attendee MUST have delegated responsibility to request funds for the school

Communications to Parents

- A guidance document has been collated to support schools in conversations with their parents
- Inclusion Champions have supported the content alongside questions and comments from the Induction meetings
- Currently in draft and with KALE

Reminder of Key Changes

Mainstream Top Up Funding (E3)2025-26

- Current claim system for top-up funding ceased 31st March 2025
- No further claims post from 1st April
- All agreed claims will continue to be paid until 31st August 25
 - this includes claims that were due to renewed for the Summer Term. No need for re application (subject to child still being at the school)
- Existing top-up claims for children with EHCP above £6k (as at 31st Dec 24) will continue to paid directly to the school. No need for re application. Money will follow the child. This includes Year 6 into 7 transfer (mainstream). This will continue until August '26.
- Notional top up funding (contribution towards first £6k for small schools) to continue until 31st Aug 26.

Funding

- Budgets for communities have been shared with community chairs.
- Protections are being 'built in' following feedback. This reduces the amount of funding available for the Communities Pot.
- These protections are for Sept 2025 – July 2026 ONLY.
- 2025 – 2026 is considered a 'transition year' as we embed a new model of working.
- Expectation is that 2025 – 2026 will support planning for the future.
- Budgets will be published on KELSI.

Continuum of Need and Provision

- The working groups input has been invaluable
- Document is nearing completion
- A draft version will be shared with schools by the end of May 2025
- Legal oversight is being sought

KELSI



- [Locality Model for School Inclusion - KELSI](#)
- Please keep looking at Kelsi for updated information. It is intended that information is updated every month
- FAQ document is held on Kelsi - [Updates, Frequently Asked Questions and Keeping in Touch - KELSI](#)

Upcoming Headteacher Briefings

Kent County Council Headteacher Briefings, June 2025

To book your place, please complete the Headteacher Briefing booking form using a valid email address: [June 2025 HT Briefing Booking Form](#)

- North Kent Headteacher Briefing - 04/06/2025 - 13:00-16:00 – The Inn on the Lake, Shorne, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HB
- West Kent Headteacher Briefing - 11/06/2025 - 13:00-16:00 – Mercure Great Danes, Maidstone, ME17 1RE
- East Kent Headteacher Briefing - 12/06/2025 - 13:00-16:00 – Seasalter Christian Centre, Faversham Road, Whitstable, CT5 4AX
- South Kent Headteacher Briefing - 13/06/2025 - 09:00-12:00 – Ashford International Hotel & Spa, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford, England, TN24 8UX

Questions

Locality Model Keeping in Touch - Q&A



<https://forms.office.com/e/ChgsjRfAhU>

FAQ documents are available
on Kelsi

[High Needs Mainstream Top-
up Funding](#)

[Locality Model \(Including
Communities of Schools\)](#)

Questions from this meeting
will be added and answered in
these documents

Thank you for your attention