KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Headteacher briefings

7th and 8th February 2022.

Feedback from the breakout rooms.

Thank you to all colleagues for your contributions to the breakout rooms. The discussions were largely positive. The comments which need addressing have been summarised and action will be taken accordingly. Positive comments were expressed around the following areas.

* Case study from Royal Harbour Academy. Many schools expressed an interest in knowing more about the approach the school is taking. The school is very happy to talk to colleagues.
* Schools welcomed the opportunity to have open and frank conversations with KCC officers so that points can be raised.
* Schools reported that the right mix of projects was available for them to engage with.
* Schools reported that where local partnerships exist they work very well
* SENCO forums are well received and are reported to be a good source of information, advice and guidance for SENCOs
* NurtureUK sparked particular interest, especially where schools have experienced new difficulties with behaviour following COVID.
* Colleagues reported that the newly designed Inclusion Dashboard is a useful tool and will be key for districts to be able to make key strategic decisions.

It is very pleasing that areas for development were discussed and KCC have reflected on those points and will act accordingly. Some actions can be t

* Access to SALT and other therapies – this will remain an ongoing piece of work. However, schools can have immediate access to a level of Speech and Language support via The Balanced System. Link is below. This will also be factored into the new SLAs for STLS service

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/improving-SLCN-support>

* Early Years. KCC is interested in a number of models where Early Years settings work directly with mainstream and special schools in their local area to ensure effective transitions for children with additional needs. It is hoped that this good practice can be mirrored across the county where the early identification of need can ensure appropriate intervention and well planned transition so that the majority of children can remain in mainstream settings.
* Access to CPD. KCC is working on a Core Training Offer and a Resource Directory which will signpost to good quality training both locally and nationally. It is expected this will be ready for the next academic year.
* Capacity of schools. Schools reported they were very interested in the projects on offer but capacity issues are preventing schools from making a commitment. KCC has communicated that to all providers and the advice is that schools should still make contact and the providers will consider the schools’ individual circumstances and will advise accordingly.
* Recruitment and use of TAs. KCC is aware of the difficulties facing schools in recruiting good quality teaching assistants. KAH have also considered this issue and are considering providing some guidance to schools on alternative recruitment and mobilisation strategies, including clusters of schools providing their own apprenticeship routes.

<https://findapprenticeshiptraining.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/courses/297>