

Confirmed SENCO Clusters 2020/21

1. Background

Currently, we have decisions made centrally by the SEN Panel. Other than SEND panel, the expertise of SENCOs is little used across schools and within the system as a whole. Similarly, ways to encourage the sharing of best practice, peer support and challenge is little used within the mainstream funding and assessment system. As part of the proposed changes, cross phase 'SEND clusters' have been agreed to help develop higher levels of joint working, with funding provided to support this work

2. Purpose of SENCO clusters:

- The key function of clusters will in effect be the first stage moderation of requests for exceptional needs funding with cluster leads then attending a Borough-wide final decision meeting (with key officers attending)
- Moderate across their schools to ensure consistency and common understanding of levels of need. Strategies might include:
 - Sharing case study information across schools for a student (within rule of confidentiality) seen as:
 - Predictable (not exceptional)
 - Not meeting this threshold, but has an EHC
 - Borderline
 - Needing support that, on an individual basis, would cost at £8k (or whatever)
- Develop a consistent understanding of provision in settings using consistent provision mapping software
- Consider any cases seen as exceptional and give advice, support or confirm that level across the group
- Receive any central allocation of resources such as EP time, or therapies or contingency fund for transition
- Receive and manage central funding for eg SENCO conference, training, Family SENCO
- Be able to pool monies to share/purchase resources across the cluster
- Share best practice through peer reviews or QA or sharing Notional and Predictable SEN spend
- Appoint a Lead Cluster SENCO to play a lead role in the development and facilitation of clusters, advise and support and induct new SENCOs, as well as to take a lead in assessment of eg exceptional needs at LA panel or Peer Review

3. Principles

- Focussed on mainstream schools with support from specialist providers where appropriate
- (Where possible) a mixed demography of school cohorts to ensure a mix of expertise and sharing best practice
- Clusters should enable conversations between primary and secondary schools but also within phases as well
- Should aim to have similar numbers of schools and pupil cohorts in them (depending on phase) to avoid uneven / overly large clusters
- Clusters should try and avoid being MAT / Trust / SET based to ensure that sharing of best practice, support, moderation and challenge is from a broad perspective and no one MAT dominates
- Consistently organised across the Borough (e.g. meeting at similar / same points of the year and doing the same things) and made up of SENCOs from every school in the cluster.

- Led by a lead cluster SENCO responsible for activity across the cluster - Cluster leads would have an important role on SEN Panel and would support a process of moderation on exceptional needs
- Cluster leads should be appointed by schools not the Local Authority - there will need to be a 'host school' but costs including 'on costs' covered by HNB
- Support for clusters will be funded by the High Needs Block at no cost to schools Devolved predictable funding will be devolved and managed by individual schools but the clusters will help moderate practice and how the funding is best used.
- The funding provided to set up and support clusters will be managed by the cluster lead.
- Clusters will be big enough to achieve economies of scale and opportunities for effective pooling of resources and expertise, but small enough to be manageable and effective
- Linked into the the SEN statutory assessment service and SEN support services in Cognus - to develop more collaborative relationships and less adversarial ones
- Linked to other networks / finds ways of drawing in expertise from PRUs or special schools, other 'helping early' agencies across health, social care

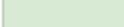
4. Confirmed Cluster Dates and Venues

	Proposed Date/ Venue	Cluster Meeting	Purpose(indicative and subject to change)
Autumn Term	Tuesday 22 September 2020 1.30 - 4.30pm Venue:HAS	Conference (all clusters)	Introduction to / reminder of the cluster model - what, where, why, purpose, contact details Networking, Training, forward planning, development of predictable/exceptional need
Half term 26-30 Oct	Tuesday 13 October 2020 2 - 4pm Venue: HAS	Single Phase Clusters -'SP 1-7'	Sharing of best practice / review of notional funding and SEN support strategies / interventions, challenge/moderation/support, Peer review / case study work, development of predictable/exceptional need, challenges & successes of the settling in of the new cohorts
	Tuesday 24 November 2020 2 - 4pm Venue: HAS	Cross Phase Clusters - 'CP 1-5'	Early review early placements and joint problem solving, review of transition processes, challenge and support Challenge/moderation/support Development of predictable/exceptional need, / recap on transitional arrangements from summer'20 and what has worked well & what can be improved
Spring Term	Tuesday 26 January 2021 2 - 4pm	Single Phase Clusters -'SP 1-7'	Sharing of best practice / review of notional funding and SEN support strategies / interventions, Challenge/moderation/support Peer review / case study work, Development of predictable/exceptional

Half Term 15 Feb to 19 Feb	Venue:HAS Tuesday 23 February 2021 2 - 4pm Venue:HAS	Single Phase Clusters - 'SP 1-7'	need Sharing of best practice / review of notional funding and SEN support strategies / interventions, Challenge/moderation/support Peer review / case study work, Development of predictable/exceptional need
Easter 1 April to 16 April	Tuesday 23 March 2021 2 - 4pm Venue:HAS	Cross Phase Clusters - 'CP 1-5'	To agree primary/secondary transition arrangements for those that have been placed, Agree support arrangements / EHC updates, How to work with families Annual reviews in year 6 and transitional arrangements
Summer Term	Tuesday 27 April 2021 2 - 4pm Venue:HAS	Single Phase Clusters - 'SP 1-7'	Sharing of best practice / review of notional funding and SEN support strategies / interventions, Challenge/moderation/support Peer review / case study wor, Development of predictable/exceptional need, last requests for EHCNA to avoid assessments during school holidays
Half term 31 May to 4 June	Tuesday 25 May 2021 2 - 4pm Venue:HAS	Single Phase Clusters - 'SP 1-7'	Sharing of best practice / review of notional funding and SEN support strategies / interventions, Challenge/moderation/support Peer review / case study work, Development of predictable/exceptional need / primary schools: transitional arrangements for EY children entering yrR / secondary schools: transitional arrangements into college
End of Term 23 July	Tuesday 29 June 2021 2 - 4pm Venue:HAS	Cross Phase Clusters - 'CP 1-5'	Discuss year 5 transition arrangements
	Tuesday 13 July 2021 1.30 - 4.30pm Venue:HAS	Conference (all clusters)	Review cluster arrangements, Feedback / learning / celebrate successes, Next steps, Training required, Forward planning

5. School Clusters - Single Phase Model (SP Clusters 1-7)

Lead Cluster SENCO	Clusters			
		Secondary	Primary	
Anna Huzzey	CP1	Harris	Avenue	St Mary's Junior
		Overton	Barrow Hedges	St Mary's Infant
		St Phils	Devonshire	Robin Hood Junior
		Wilsons		Robin Hood Infants
Natalie Robins	CP2	Car Boys	Culvers	All Saints Carshalton
		WCGS	Green Wrythe	Beddington Park
		Car Girls	Hackbridge	Holy Trinity
			Harris Junior	Beddington Infants
			Victor Seymour	
Sarah Wilson	CP3	Cheam	Westbourne	Dorchester
		Nonsuch High	St Cecilians	Nonsuch
		Highview	St Dunstans	
		Cheam Park Farm Pri		
Emily Kenny	CP4	Oaks Park	Bandon Hill	St Elpheges Infant
		WHS	Foresters	St Elpheges Junior
		John Fisher	Stanley Park Infants	Wallington Academy
			Stanley Park Junior	Manor Park
Sarah Pearson	CP5	Glenthorne	All Saints Benhilton	Abbey
		Greenshaw	Brookfield	Cheam Fields Pri
		Sutton Grammar	Muschamp	Cheam Comm Jun
			Rushey Meadow	Cheam Comm Infs
			Tweedale	

MATS/FTs	
	LEO
	Cirrus
	SET
	GLT
	CAN
	Willow Trust
	Girls LT
	Harris
	Folio
	
	Denotes
	Opp Base