**Local Authority/Head Teacher Reps’ Meeting**

**Summary Notes 22.01.21**

**Attendance** – Vin McInerney, Dominic Smart, James Carrick, Cllr Rick Jewell, Tony Theodoulou, Peter Nathan, Sarah Fryer, Jo Fear

1. **Apologies**

Lucy Nutt.

1. **Actions from Last Meeting**

* Peter reported that he had raised the concerns about the additional workload caused by the DfE daily returns and the additional costs associated with testing with the DfE. Although the comments were noted, there was no further feedback
* Tony offered to raise this with the Reginal Schools Commissioner (see updates from the LA)
* Information about attendance and the support from the Education Welfare Service has been published on the Hub.
* Sarah is still trying to clarify the insurance situation with Enfield’s Insurance Team (injury whilst administering tests/infection because of testing etc), to ensure that the original advice remains current. There is reference to the insurance cover in the recent guidance issued to primary schools about LFTs, but Primary schools may wish to check that their insurance provider is aware of this.

1. **COVID Update**

* The DfE return shows that 3595 students were in school on Wednesday, 20th January. Numbers of critical workers continue to remain high in primary schools (2479). Less than half the students with an allocated Social Worker were currently attending. Not all schools were completing the return and HT reps were asked to encourage colleagues to submit the data to the DfE.
* Tony reported that there had been a reduction in the infection rate in Enfield. The vaccination rate is good, with Enfield higher than other London LAs.
* There is some discussion at a national level around school staff and the Police receiving prioritisation in the second round of the vaccination programme. It was felt that if that is the case, it may be necessary to target some staff groups for example, staff in special schools and early years settings. Dominic suggested that staff in ARPS and support staff could also be prioritised. This would need further discussion. The Local Authority is setting up a Vaccination Board and Education will be represented.
* The possibility of NHS staff going into schools to administer the vaccinations was discussed but Tony was felt this was unlikely to happen during the early stages of the vaccination programme.

1. **Items from Schools**

* There were no items form secondary and special.
* A primary colleague raised a concern about the impact of multiple self-isolation periods on schools. It was acknowledged that this caused difficulties, but it is a requirement to self-isolate regardless of how many times this may happen to the same member of staff.

1. **Updates from the LA**

* The Regional Schools’ Commissioner had contacted to suggest a meeting. Tony advised that it would be appropriate for Peter to join him as it would be possible to raise challenges being faced by schools (additional expenditure due to COVID, workload remote learning and IT etc).
* Schools were asked for an update on remote learning and the provision of IT from the DfE. The general view was schools were receiving equipment, but not the full amount requested/needed to ensure all students would be able to access remote learning. The situation is better than during the previous lockdown but is still far from ideal. Peter highlighted the recent concerns raised by the Sutton Trust about the impact of digital poverty on disadvantaged children. Cllr Jewell advised colleagues that he had attended a London Lead Members meeting when the concerns around IT and connectivity were discussed.
* HT reps agreed to approach colleagues to request information about the provision of devices and whether this is sufficient to meet the needs of their pupil population. This is information that can be fed back to the RSC.
* LFT – primary school are beginning to receive their allocations of LF tests. The LA clarified that the tests should be accessed to all staff on site including the catering team. Drivers and escorts in relation to school transport are able to access dedicated Council staff LF testing facility at Morson Road depot. Schools can, though, provide these staff with kits from their own supply should they wish. There is no limit on the number of LFT that schools can order.
* Following the DfE announcement on Tuesday about LFT, secondaries reported that they are generally ready to start testing but there were concerns about the implications of testing students when all return to school. A staggered approach would be more manageable. The number of staff required to support the testing regime was discussed and it was agreed it may be difficult to identify enough staff to test when all pupils return.
* Dominic reported that over 60 Heads attended a session to discuss home testing this week. Information and resources from the meeting had been sent to Cheryl Headon to publish on the Hub. Primary Heads would be following advice from Dudu Sher Arami, Consultant in Public and PHE in relation to the use of LFT following a positive PCR test (you don’t use a LFT until 90 days after the period of isolation has finished).
* Cllr Jewell asked for clarification about the non-engagement of students with remote learning. It was stressed that parents need to keep in contact with the school to let them know if they are not taking up the virtual learning offer. Schools have a clear responsibility for safeguarding and need to ensure they have regular contact with the young person. Schools will make every effort to have contact either by phone or in person if necessary. In some cases, where remote learning isn’t possible, schools will provide education on site as per the DfE guidance.
* Cllr Jewell is preparing a letter to go to the Secretary of State to ask for an increase in the level of pupil premium given the measures schools are going to have to put in place to support children when they return to school. HT reps said that they would be happy to support this on behalf of schools in Enfield.
* Peter reported that The DfE were starting to model different scenarios for the return of schools – staggered/different years groups etc. No further information is available, though.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the HT rep meetings would be held weekly in January, with a start time of 10.30. The next meeting will be on Friday, 29th January 2021.

**Proposed agenda**

1. Welcome, apologies
2. Actions from previous meeting
3. Current lockdown updates
4. Local update on Testing, Vaccinations and local data.
5. School attendance
6. Covid school occurrences update.
7. Questions/matters raised by schools
8. Remote Learning: IT provision.
9. PPE
10. Transport update
11. DfE updates – other related issues including HR issues
12. AOB