

Hello everyone.

Please see below the update following our meeting with officers on Wednesday 1st February 2017.

Apologies for the length of this article, but it does represent a six hour meeting with many important pieces of information to share!

I have also increased the font size from last time as my eyesight is failing me!

If you have any queries related to any of these items (or indeed any other issue you would like to raise), please contact your local JDP rep using the contact details at the end of this article.

1. Premises and asbestos:

- a. To remind schools that a change in arrangements has been in place from Sept 2016 and that Headteachers/responsible officers should book on update training through Smart Solutions. In the 2017 Annual Records Checklist carried out by HandS it is anticipated that a 'training completed' check will be done as well as a visual check of current records. Remember, that unless absolutely certain that an area contains no asbestos, consent must be sought from the NYCC Property Team before commencing any intrusive works, however minor. Experience of recent years demonstrates that some of the most significant issues (including works in excess of £100k) have been caused by very minor works.
- b. We discussed some recent experiences of schools when responding to site-related crises. Schools subscribing to MASS should always go through to the property team when faced with premises related crises – floods etc. Those schools not in MASS can choose their route and go through their own property management arrangements, insurance or the NYCC Property Team, but remember if not in MASS, works below £3000 will be the responsibility of the school to either fund or reclaim from insurers.

2. Epiopen training:

An article was recently circulated via the JDP Headteacher Hub, which clarifies training needs and routes to satisfy insurers if insured through NYCC. The article can be found [HERE](#).

3. Moderation training:

Schools have expressed concern around dates offered for moderation training for key stage 1 and 2, in that some are on the same date, causing problems covering staff. We have asked E and S to look at what can be done.

4. Safeguarding training and audit:

- a. Schools have been in contact having struggled to book appropriate and timely refresher training for the Designated Safeguarding Lead. We have asked that responsible officers look into this. In the interim, can we remind all DSLs (and deputies) that you need refresher training once every two years and that you may need to look to book this up to 3 months in advance – so check your records and liaise with your Smart Solutions Relationship Manager to get onto an appropriate course. In the 2016/17 policy it is advised as good practise to look at booking refresher courses which broaden your skillset to match the incoming needs of your school – domestic violence, developmental needs, toxic trio etc
- b. Please can we remind ALL schools that you should complete the NYCC Safeguarding Audit Tool and associated Action Plan which was issued on the Redbag [HERE](#). You then need to pass both through governors before submitting the completed audit to the Safeguarding Board.

5. Early years 30 hour offer:

Schools will no doubt be aware of the 30 hour offer being 'brought forward' for North Yorkshire providers to impact after the Easter holidays. NYCC have already responded in the background to the queries raised about the timing of some of the courses offered, to move them from halfterm holidays to termtime. You can find locality dates [HERE](#). We have suggested that NYCC consider setting up a 'popup' website page on CYPs info which can host FAQ and allow some sort of user interaction over the coming weeks.

6. Prevention service:

Following up from our previous meeting we requested a follow up discussion about information sharing.

- After February halfterm, an additional service standard will be implemented whereby all parties should receive an emailed case update at least once every six weeks, including advance warning if case closure is being considered.
- Already in place are joint step-up and step-down meetings, such as if a case is passed from Social Care to Prevention a combined visit is made to ensure consent is gained and therefore continuity in place for the family.

- A small group of schools are working alongside JDP and NYCC Officers to pilot school use of the Early Help Module. EHM is the system used by Prevention and CSC to record and update casework. School use and interaction with EHM could of course considerably ease communication between services.
- Can we remind all schools that you have an entitlement to a termly update meeting with your Area Prevention Manager – to update against current prevention cases, those open to CSC (since the Prevention Manager can bring this information for you), discuss any current concerns and generally update against safeguarding matters. Current data would suggest most schools are receiving the offer of a meeting, but only around 50% are taking up meetings. Let us know why – what more do you need from these meetings; why might you not feel them necessary?
- We have asked the Prevention team to liaise with the Attendance Team and provide absolute clarity for schools with regard % attendance which requires statutory Prevention involvement etc.
- From 1st April 2017 all referrals to Prevention, Social Care AND the Health Child Team will be by the same single referral route and will be screened by MAST (the multi-agency screening team). Watch for the slightly amended referral form in the Redbag in due course. With regard referrals, if you know that a worker is involved with a family, please discuss any additional concerns which may arise with that worker directly (of course also logging in your school based systems) rather than submitting another referral. The worker and/or area lead will advise if an additional referral is required.
- Finally, we also asked Julie Firth, as overall lead, to probe into some reported inconsistency into areas around the county and ensure all pupils have access to the same service standards.

7. Information for schools on admission to school:

Thank you to schools for your feedback on the process introduced in September. The original Redbag article can be found [HERE](#). For schools who have used the transition form already, feedback is reassuringly positive. However, not all schools are currently using the process and so steps need to be designed to ensure that the transfer of information becomes the norm, including for out of county moves. We will work in the background to add in the appropriate steps to tweak the system. In the meantime, please remember that we are operating this form as a collective agreement – as receiving school, you can forward the form to the sending school and insist on receipt before finalising a start date.

8. Children Missing In Education return:

Early in the autumn term schools will have received a communication with regard weekly Children Missing In Education (CME) returns. Statutory duties have changed from September and the LA is required to submit more regular returns and also have schools in effect sign off on nil returns. The process circulated by NYCC in the autumn was for weekly submissions via email, from all schools. Watch out for an article very soon on the Redbag to describe a change to this process to make it more workable at school level. The new process will involve:

- Any school where a child becomes CME (reminder of criteria will be circulated in the article) MUST make a return to the LA within 5 working days – this will be in the form of a Snap Survey online
- Every school must make a return at least once per month/halfterm via Snap Survey in any case, even if this is a nil return. This will replace the weekly email return. The Snap Survey will be very brief and completed in just a couple of clicks if a nil return. Should a school forget to send in their regular return, a reminder will be sent to the school, escalated to headteacher level. This will become a statutory return for all schools, including academies.

Whilst it may take a little time to consolidate, NYCC are working in the background to try and put in place an ICT/MIS solution to this.

9. Conference 2017:

Places are booking now for our 2017 JDP Leadership Conference which will be held at Harrogate Pavilions on 28th April 2017. Our keynote speakers will be Pete Dwyer, Corporate Director CYPS, John Nichol and Nicky Looby. Timings differ slightly this year with a breakfast bar and stands from 9am and conference opening at 10am. Hopefully, this will allow colleagues travelling afar a little more time to make their journeys along with more time to view our excellent array of stands.

Booking forms available now on the RedBag

[John Nichol](#) – RAF navigator, captured by the Iraqis during the Gulf War. His experiences qualify him to speak with unquestionable authority on not only surviving challenges, but also turning them to your advantage.

[Nick Looby](#) - a communications specialist who will help us 'get the message through'

10. SEND review and planned changes:

At our meeting we discussed the main findings from the ISOS review of SEND across NYCC which was conducted last academic year. The SEND team will be conducting a series of local meetings in coming months to work with stakeholders and design appropriate actions for each locality, such as to commence implementation around September 2017.

The headlines to discuss are:

SEMH – complexity of need, range of provision, considering an interim between EMS and special; girls with SEMH; getting the shape and size of EMS provision right by area and flexible to the future

Autism – an area of considerable growth

Consistency of provision both across county and in different areas of need

Local consultation will involve professionals, parents, carers and students – watch for details in the Redbag [HERE](#) and take the opportunity to influence and shape the future provision in your area.

Some schools have been in receipt of letters from health professionals requesting schools to commission Educational Psychology assessments of pupils. We have asked that the SEND team work alongside health colleagues to at least look at the language used in such requests as it is not appropriate for a GP to direct such action, especially given that for most schools this would require trading with the EP service. Because these letters are also copied to parents, they leave schools in an awkward position. If you receive such requests, please let us know.

We also met with Paul Robinson, who is interim lead for SEND. Paul had some very pragmatic suggestions to improve links within the service. For example, Paul is tasking Principle Reviewing Officers to have more face to face contact with schools, to be actively involved in supervision of AROs especially around more complex cases. PAROs will be more empowered to make placement decisions and to consider bespoke solutions for individual students including solutions outside of statutory assessment routes. The intention is to re-introduce locality SENAP panels and ensure panels have collaborative representation from schools. To safeguard against any possible area inconsistency (which was previously suggested when area panels were in place), there will be planned cross-representation, spot checking of cases etc. more news to follow at SENCo Networks etc including ensuring that SENCos are clear what good preparation for panel will look like.

11. The Headteacher Support Scheme:

Many headteacher colleagues have made use of this service over the years. It has allowed interaction with a trained counsellor on a planned and paid basis to help mitigate the stresses and strains of our busy role. Colleague Headteachers have reported that in the recent 'buyback' round with Smart Solutions, the number of sessions and terms of the contract have changed substantially and have further been told that this was by recommendation of JDP! This is not the case! We are asking for an urgent review of the costing model and service level agreement with schools. From the feedback we have received from service users, it has been working very well indeed and did not need changing! Watch this space.

12. School Term Dates for 18/19 academic year:

We discussed consultation options for the term date and training day proposals for the 2018-19 academic year. Watch out for the Redbag article [HERE](#). We were most concerned that the change implemented last year was revoked and that schools would once again be able to choose their two school-specific training days from existing termtime as opposed to holidays which was the case last year. This has been enacted and hopefully the consultation will be much more straightforward as a result. Remember the consultation is just that and do not finalise and school dates until the consultation has closed and the academic term dates have been approved by elected members.

13. Communications with schools:

The CYPs Info site will cease to exist in its current format in July 2017. JDP are actively involved in consultation work to review content, menu options etc before transition to a new platform. Once the move has been made, the platform will be further developed to ensure a useful user experience – for now, the priority is securing content to a new provider. At the same time as the CYPs Info migration, changes have already been implemented to Smart Solutions Online. We have stated our desired 'endgame' is for integration between the different sites with search engines that can find content across several platforms and also, that if information is easily available, the Headteacher Hub will no longer be needed!

One 'given' on the new site should be the ability for you to sign up to free subscription services and receive email alerts in your inbox.

Did you receive this article via an emailed link from the Headteacher Hub? If so, then your login is working correctly.

If not, and you would like to occasionally receive useful updates in this way, please email the Schools ICT development team at cirrus@schoolsict.co.uk from your registered school account, stating your name and job role and asking for login credentials to be sent to you for the hub. Be aware that until you educate your mailbox otherwise, emails from the Hub may appear in spam or clutter. To prevent this in Office365 (other email providers are available!), just select the email in spam, right click and mark 'not spam.'

We have highlighted with officers that Headteachers new to North Yorkshire should be in receipt of a brief introductory letter including details of our JDP site www.headteacherhub.co.uk

14. Funding update:

We had an update on funding from Anton Hodge. Whilst the National Funding Formula (NFF) will not have full impact until April 2019, it will start to have effect from April 2018. Schools will no doubt have found the DfE spreadsheet which allows prediction at an individual school level. If you missed it, the article with the excel spreadsheet (titled 'impact of the proposed NFF') can be found [HERE](#). The DfE are now in the second phase of consultation around the NFF and seem to be much more open than previously to the points of concern raised by the LA. Currently, the roll out of the NFF will see £7m more funding into NYCC, but with considerable variance at school level – 90% of primaries would gain, but 55% of secondaries would lose. In the simplest sense, this is because the NFF redefines the 'lump sum' – where NYCC has separate primary and secondary lump sums, the NFF would implement a single figure, more than the current NYCC primary but less than the current secondary figure – hence the impact.

From April 2017, several changes to current funding arrangements in our authority will have to be made; for example, the local authority will no longer be able to 'de-delegate' and pool funding for Outdoor Education, broadband or asbestos removal. Whilst in the short term, this will see some additional delegated funding into schools (since NYCC are opting to use reserves to try and 'phase' the impact of these changes), longer term, schools will need to pay more for services such as broadband, use school money to fund FSM places at outdoor centres and consider purchasing into a proposed NYCC Assurance Scheme for asbestos removal. Please do work with your finance teams to try and bear these changes in mind when trying to create a longer term financial forecast (if that is even possible!)

We are always interested in your thoughts, comments, compliments and issues – what is going well, what is causing you concern, how can we help?

Our remaining meeting dates for 2016-2017 are:

- ***29th March 2017***
- ***21st June 2017***

JDP area contacts:

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Please do contact us, if you would like to raise queries, concerns or issues for us to discuss or indeed pass on compliments or ideas for improvement. Reps are always happy to liaise via telephone or e-mail and will try and visit your cluster meetings if you would like us to do this. **Comment can always be sent through to Ian Yapp, JDP Spokesperson via**

headteacher@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk