

# National SEND Reference Group

## Terms of reference - draft 2

### Purpose

- The principle function of the National SEND Reference group is to maintain and further develop effective communication between Government departments and the provider and commissioner bodies that support children and young people, 0-25 years with disabilities, SEND or complex health needs and their families.
- It is anticipated that through this unprecedented period, the SEND Reference Group will “add value” to government advice by being positively engaged in early conversations/debate/discussions around issues that may impact upon the SEND community
- The National Reference Group will operate for a fixed period of time – throughout the Coronavirus outbreak and, if required, in the aftermath. Discussions will need to be had as to the validity of the reference group in supporting the Covid-19 “exit strategy” and the subsequent effects upon our sector. Initially, the Group will operate until the beginning of 2021 ie a 9 month period.

### Function

- The aim of the National SEND Reference group is to broadly represent and interpret best practice/challenges based on their routine contact with their “constituents” within their area of influence or within their particular region. This intelligence will be fed into Government departments.
- The SEND Reference Group will actively address the interest and needs of their colleagues/families/schools by raising issues for the weekly/fortnightly meeting agenda or as matters arise. This will be subject to review after 3 months.
- The SEND Reference Group will actively promote concerns and needs (from the wider network) with a solution-based approach enabling professional collaboration to improve the coordination of the Covid-19 communication strategy
- The SEND Reference Group will also try to influence best practice ideas/models to relay to key government departments

### Accountability and practicalities

- The SEND Reference Group will be chaired by Professor Adam Boddison
- It is anticipated that the SEND reference group will be prompted by government officials, as to areas that need further discussion, prior to the virtual meeting. By being proactive the reference group will be in a position to seek views from the wider networks.

- The Reference Group will meet, virtually.
- Progress and minutes will be reported as required.
- The National SEND Reference group will be a sample group of around members, ensuring both a “sector breadth” and aiming to ensure a geographical spread

NASEN	Professor Adam Boddison (Chair)
AP/SEND CEO network	Mark Vickers
National SEND Forum	Dave Bateson OBE
(Swiss) Special Teaching Schools	Dr Penny Barratt
National Teaching Schools Network	Hilary Evans
Special Schools Voice	Graham Quinn
SSAT	Pauline Holbrook
NAHT	Mark Dale Emberton
Whole School SEND	Simon Knight Malcolm Reeve Anne Heavey
ASCL	Margaret Mullholland
Special School MATs	Elisabeth Horne CBE
NASS	Claire Dorer
CDC	Dame Christine Lenahan
Medicine in Special Schools	Dominic Wall
NATSPEC	Clare Howard
Teaching Schools Council	Gill Robinson OBE
FLSE	Dr Kim Taylor OBE
SWALSS/SW SEND	Mark Collis
Association of Colleges	Liz Maudsley
PRUAPs	Sarah Dove