



Hampshire
County Council

Improvement and
Advisory Service

District Headteacher Briefings Winchester & Eastleigh

Summer 2 2026

Local headteacher updates – Eastleigh

Acting/Interim heads

- Jim Hartley – Fair Oak Jnr
- Susannah Holmes – Freegrounds Inf
- Nikki Wilson – Shakespeare Jnr

Headships

- Freegrounds Infant (Jan '27)

Local headteacher updates – Winchester

Acting/Interim heads

- Marisa Ballard - Twyford St Mary's (Sept 26)

Headships

- Twyford St Mary's (Jan 27)

Summary

- Ofsted framework updates
- [Toolkit – key changes](#)
- [Schools comm – weekly notification](#)
- [Health and safety – risk assessments](#)
- [Benedict's Law briefings](#)
- [Emergency school contact](#)
- School website compliance
- Changes to Free School Meals eligibility
- Best Start Family Hubs
- General updates
 - SEND updates
 - [Children's wellbeing and schools act 2026](#)
 - Inclusion, SEND and disadvantaged network
 - Hampshire Activities and Food Programme
 - Procurement card
 - Hampshire Curriculum Conference
 - Climate Unity conference
- HeadsUp4Headteachers

**Please read all
slides for full
information**

**Slides with actions
are hyper-linked and
relevant action is
highlighted on the
slide**

Ofsted updates

Framework updates from September 2026

[What you need to know about the September 2026 updates to education inspections – Ofsted: education](#)

New operating guidance and toolkit can be found here - [School inspection: toolkit, operating guides and information - GOV.UK](#)

Summary of changes are here : [Summary of changes - GOV.UK](#)



Toolkit – key changes

- **Safeguarding** Clear expectation of a whole-school approach with stronger focus on culture, risk identification, and record keeping.
- **Inclusion** Explicit requirement for an inclusion strategy. Greater focus on SEND and disadvantaged pupils and family engagement. [Inclusive mainstream fund: support for school leaders - GOV.UK](#)
- **Achievement** More contextual judgements including comparison with similar schools and consideration of disrupted education.
- **Curriculum** Greater focus on progress across the full curriculum and adaptation for different pupil groups.
- **Leadership** Clearer accountability for safeguarding, statutory compliance, and inclusion outcomes.
- **Pupil Welfare** Strengthened expectations for medical support, allergy safety, and welfare practices.
- **Wider Experience** Recognition of enrichment, mobile phone policies, and tackling bullying and discrimination.
- **Early Years** Greater emphasis on EYFS data, national comparisons, and readiness for next stage.
- **Attendance & Behaviour** More nuanced understanding of disrupted attendance and links to inclusion.

School Communications

Microsoft has now withdrawn the functionality that previously allowed users to receive email alerts when new items were published on the site. This is a system-wide change and is not something the County Council is able to reinstate or manage locally.

We recognise that these alerts were a helpful way for schools to keep up to date, and that their removal creates a gap. We share the frustration caused by this unannounced change.

To address this, we are putting in place a new Hampshire County Council–managed email update. This will provide a regular summary of new School Communications and will be sent directly to nominated contacts within schools.

Launch will be ASAP once we have a distribution list collated.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Z3LmqgCZgU>

School Comms Weekly
Notification Sign-Up



Health and Safety

Risk Assessment Awareness

[Risk Assessment in schools July 2026 booking form](#) before 3 July.

Monday 6 July 13:00
Tuesday 7 July 09:00
Tuesday 7 July 15:00
Thursday 9 July 14:00

Risk Assessment in Schools: assurance sessions

New assurance sessions have been introduced following feedback from recent Health & Safety briefings with school leaders.

Overall, the sessions aim to strengthen how schools manage and review risk assessments to ensure safer environments

Who should attend?

- The staff member responsible for Health & Safety
- At least one additional staff member involved in risk assessments

Key aims of the sessions:

- Ensure risk assessments are effective in practice
- Improve the quality and consistency of processes
- Clarify what strong risk assessment practice looks like in schools
- Support compliance with current Health & Safety and HSE expectations
- Define clear responsibilities for completing and reviewing assessments
- Promote robust review processes, including constructive challenge and fresh perspectives
- Provide guidance and support resources for schools

Benedict's Law

Benedict's Law (the [Schools Allergy Safety Bill](#)) is expected to introduce mandatory, statutory allergy safety protections in all schools across England, which is expected to take effect in September 2026. It is expected to mandate robust allergy policies, widespread staff training, and the availability of emergency medication for a number of health conditions in educational settings.

When in statute it is expected to require:

- Whole school allergy policy
- Staff training emergency mediation
- Individual healthcare plans for all pupils with an allergy
- Robust incident reporting

It is anticipated that this will also be evaluated within Ofsted within KCSIE

The bill is at the second reading stage in the Commons – the Education nor Health teams have any further definitive information to ensure all schools are compliant but has been actively seeking confirmation.

To meet the expectation of the Bill, the LA is hosting online sessions in July to clarify the expectations, enabling you to raise questions and understand the likely scope of the law. The LA is also seeking to draft a model policy for schools to consider.

School Allergy Safety Bill - information sessions 2/8/17 July

See Schools Communication [Preparing for Benedict's Law \(the School Allergy Safety Bill\)](#) for booking-on briefings

Emergency Contacts

The Emergency Contact database is a critical resource, enabling the County Council to contact your establishment during out-of-hours periods and school holidays.



Please use the attached link to review and update your emergency contact details by **30 June 2026**.

This applies to all schools, including both maintained schools and academies.

Incidents requiring out-of-hours response can occur in any setting, and having up-to-date contact information is essential. This ensures we can quickly liaise with key holders in the event of, for example, a weekend fire, or with a senior leader in the case of a serious incident.

Access to this information is restricted to the most senior officers and is only used when an emergency arises.

All schools- maintained and academies

[Emergency school contact - update for Summer 2026](#)

DfE: statutory guidance for school websites – what maintained schools must publish online

A thematic schools website audit was conducted during the Spring term as part of the LA's 2025-26 internal audit plan. The vast majority of compulsory documents were accessible, and strong information was seen in the two specific areas sampled in depth: **Pupil Premium**, and for secondaries **careers** information.

The audit also highlighted how some key policies were sometimes **out of date** or some **basic information required by the DfE was missing**.

For example - Governor Allowances' Policy was missing in 11/15 schools sampled.

Some policies were more than 5 years overdue for review. The charging policy (4/15), equality objectives (5/15) and behaviour and RSHE (3/15) policies were the most common areas to need the updated version saved to the school website.

Five schools did not share school opening hours and the total time in a typical week.

Governing Bodies hold the ultimate responsibility for compliance. As often policies are reviewed in preparation for September and the new school year, we urge all school leaders to ensure as your policy review cycle includes checking documents on your website are up to date and compliant with:

[What maintained schools must or should publish online - GOV.UK](#)

Secretary of State's communication: 2026

Impact of National Procurement Framework and “Maximising Value for Pupils”

- Encourages schools to achieve good value for money through more efficient and compliant purchasing
- Promotes use of approved frameworks and centralised contracts to reduce costs and risk
- Increases accountability and transparency in financial decision-making
- Encourages a shift away from high-cost, unmanaged agency use
- Promotes supply capped rates and pre-agreed terms through framework suppliers
- Supports schools in prioritising spending that directly benefits pupil outcomes
- May require changes to existing procurement practices and greater awareness of national guidance

Hampshire has a long and established history of collaboration in many areas including procurement, and service provision. County Supplies and HIAS are good examples of this, and support a high number of schools. These are designed in partnership with Hampshire schools to best meet needs and offer excellent value for money.

Maintained schools in Hampshire operate within a structured framework governed by the HCC Scheme for Financing Schools and local authority procurement processes.

Hampshire has no supply staff provision.

The LA will be considering the DfE proposal.

Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility

Free School Meals eligibility is being expanded in September to all children from households receiving Universal Credit and transitional protections for FSM are ending. The Department has published updated FSM guidance and this webinar sets out what these changes mean for schools and local authorities.

[Free School Meals \(FSM\) guidance - Session Two](#)

[Free school meals: guidance for schools and local authorities - GOV.UK](#)

Applying for Free School Meals

Applications for Free School Meals should be submitted using the following link:

[Free school meals | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council](#)

Please note that any applications made before September 2026 will be assessed against the current eligibility thresholds but later rechecked against the new thresholds ahead of the new academic year.

Giving every child the best start in life

UK Government's Aim: Ensure every child – regardless of background – has the best start in life by supporting healthy development, strong family relationships and access to opportunities, so they can thrive and reach their full potential.

Every baby, child, and family should have the best start in life, with joined-up support from conception through early childhood.



beststartinlife.gov.uk

How?

- Better support for families: Launch Best Start Family Hubs (in-person and digital support), combining health, parenting and early learning services. A central point for families to access information and advice.
- Strengthen maternity care, health visiting, immunisations and oral health.
- More accessible childcare by offering 30 free hours per week funded childcare from the age of 9 months, and expand nursery school places (early years pupil premium).
- Improving the quality of early years by introducing new standards, early years teacher incentives and doubling the number of stronger practice hubs to scale evidence-based learning and support transitions to reception.

Giving every child the best start in life

The earliest years of a child's life and family environments have a significant impact on children's development and long-term outcomes – which is why the UK Government are investing in a new chapter for family support.

Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies services are central to deliver on these ambitions, building on lessons from Sure Start and existing Family Hubs.

The landscape has changed since Sure Start and the previous Family Hubs and Start for Life programme was introduced – we must reimagine family services for the modern through a more joined up system.

The new BSFHs and Healthy Babies guidance comes at a time of:

- An ambitious **Best Start in Life** agenda, including **significant investment in early education**
- embedding a **prevention-focused, whole-system approach to health**, through the 10 Year Health Plan and Neighbourhood Health Framework
- overhauling **the SEND system**, helping ensure families get earlier support rather than waiting until needs become acute
- reforming children's social care, to provide **more targeted, intensive support through local Family Help** services
- Strong **voluntary and community sector relationships**.

We must build with, rather than around, this broader context.

DfE and DHSC are now investing **£900m in Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies** services over the next three-years. **This is the next step towards a decade of renewal**; with clearer expectations, stronger accountability, and more investment.

What is a Best Start Family Hub?



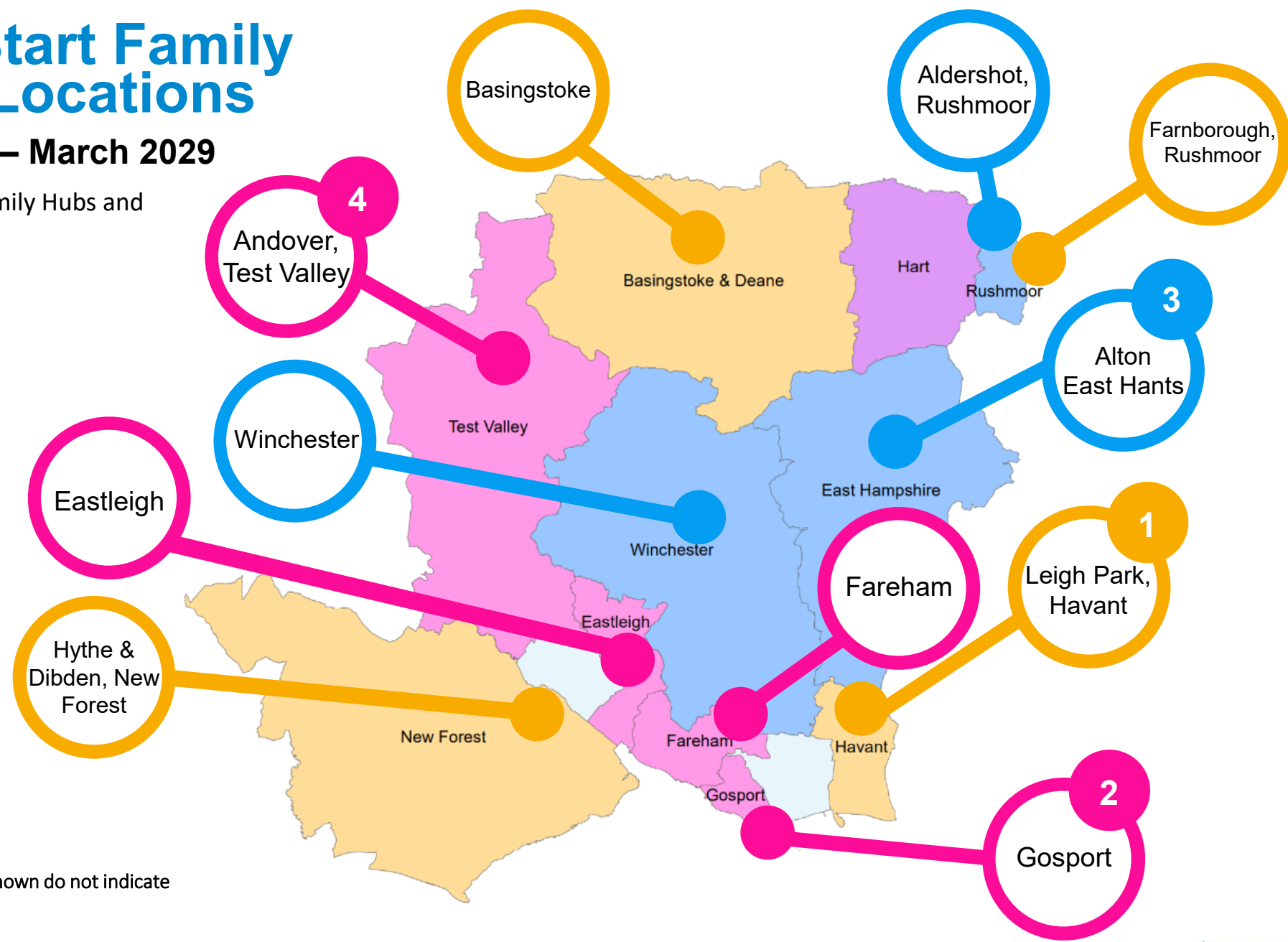
	Physical Hub	A place where families (0–19, 25 with SEND) can access advice and be signposted to specialist support.
	Early Years Focus	Staff connect families to 0–5 health and family services, supporting babies' healthy start and school readiness.
	Specialist Support	On-site help for additional needs, parenting, and home learning environment.
	Healthy Babies	Support for infant feeding, perinatal mental health, and parent-infant relationships (conception to age 2).
	Outreach & Digital	Linked outreach services and accessible online offer.
	Co-production	Parents, carers, and VCFS involved in shaping the offer.
	Branding and Naming	Use naming convention "Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies" with Best Start in Life branding.

The target: achieve 75% of children reaching a good level of development (GLD) by age 5 (up from 68%).

Best Start Family Hubs Locations

April 2026 – March 2029

30 Best Start Family Hubs and Network sites



Please note: The colours shown do not indicate order or priority.

General update

Summer 2 2026

SEND payments – issue affecting summer term payments

Issue Summary

An ongoing issue has been identified with the supplier of our management information system which is impacting the accuracy of the provisions report used to calculate SEN, top up, payments for schools.

For the Summer Term 2026, the report is failing to correctly [*generate?*] information and as a result, the report is not calculating funding values, preventing accurate payment processing to schools.

Current Position

Working with the supplier to remediate the issue, in line with our SLA.

IT Contracts and IT Support are actively engaged with the supplier and ensuring understanding of the urgency for a fix.

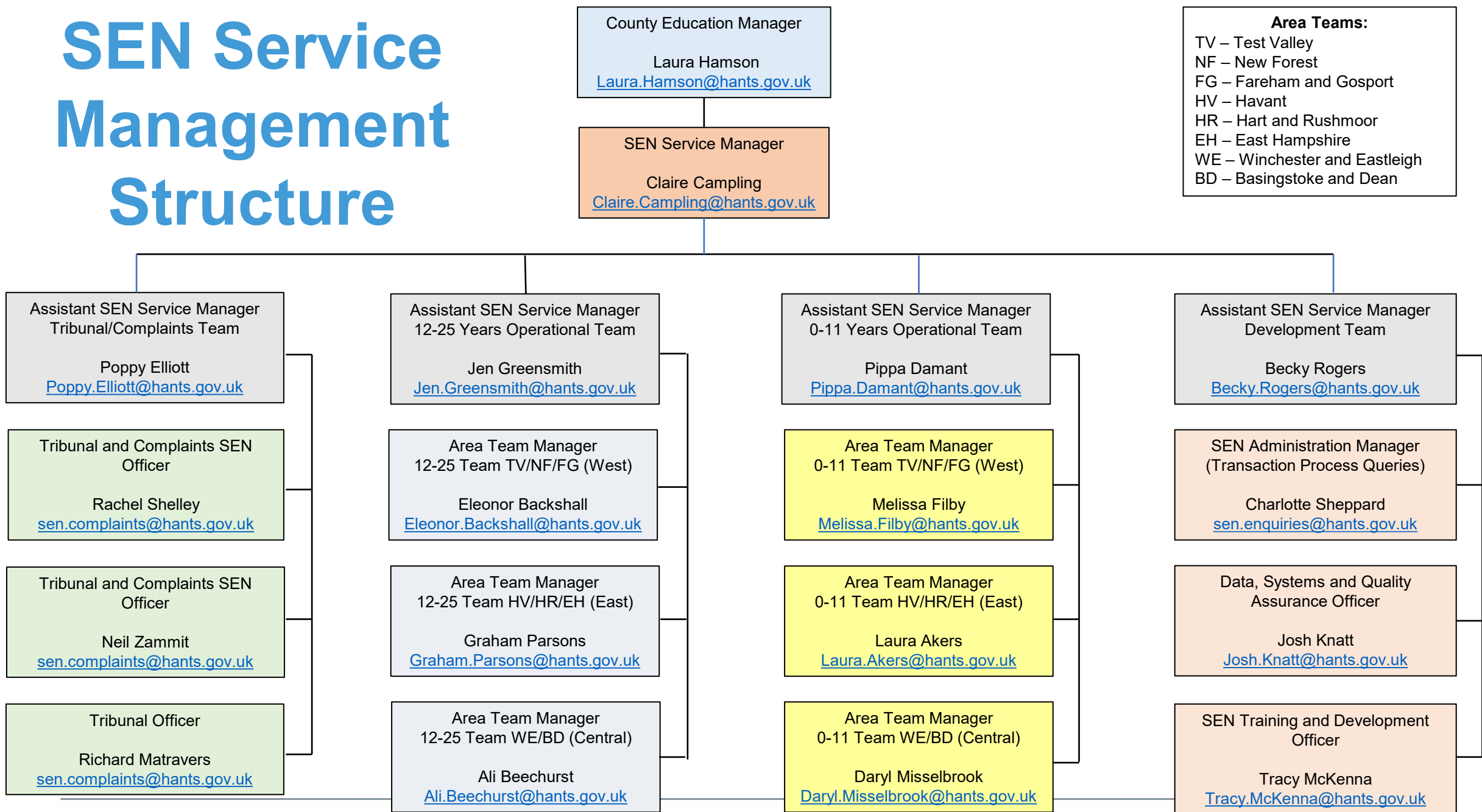
Next Steps

Remediate the issue and work with the SEN team to get the report run accurately and in a timely manner.

We fully recognise the impact this delay may have and are working closely with the supplier to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We will provide a further update as soon as progress allows.

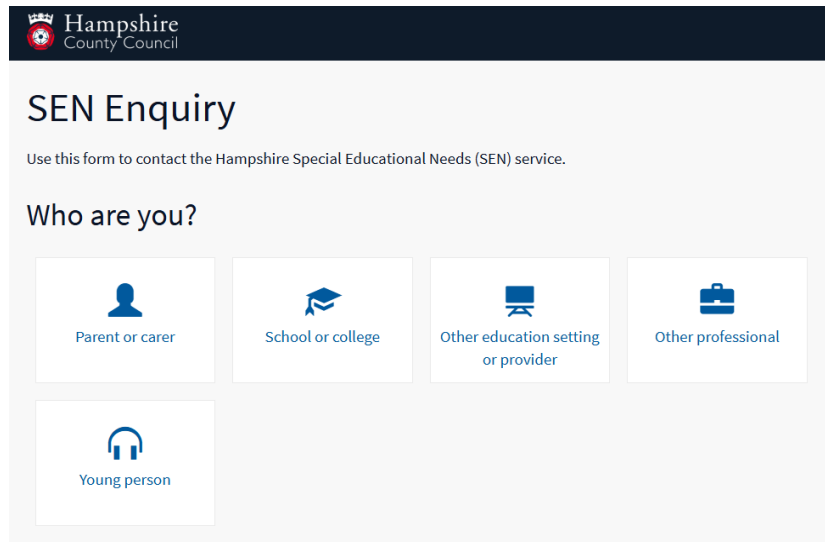
Thank you for your patience and understanding.

SEN Service Management Structure



Launch of new 'Contact Form' - available for parents, carers, young people, and professionals

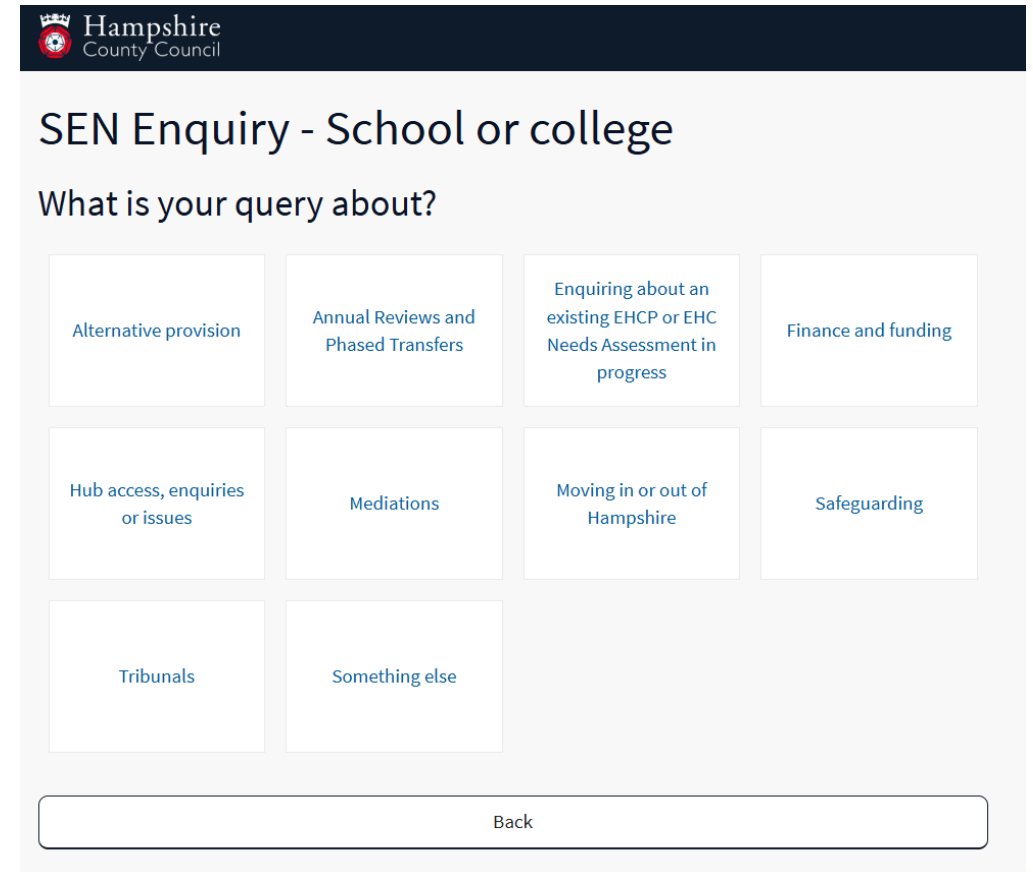
This is an online, accessible way of contacting the SEN Service and can be used alongside existing communication channels.



The screenshot shows the 'SEN Enquiry' form for Hampshire County Council. At the top is the council's logo. Below it, the title 'SEN Enquiry' is followed by the instruction: 'Use this form to contact the Hampshire Special Educational Needs (SEN) service.' The question 'Who are you?' is followed by five selectable options, each with an icon: 'Parent or carer' (person icon), 'School or college' (graduation cap icon), 'Other education setting or provider' (computer monitor icon), 'Other professional' (briefcase icon), and 'Young person' (headphones icon).

Benefits

- Simplifies the process for users
- Tailored questions and signposting.
- Ensures essential details are captured.
- Automatic routing makes sure enquiries go to the right team
 - Provides a better, more responsive service



The screenshot shows the 'SEN Enquiry - School or college' form for Hampshire County Council. It features the council's logo at the top, followed by the title 'SEN Enquiry - School or college' and the question 'What is your query about?'. Below this is a grid of 10 selectable options: 'Alternative provision', 'Annual Reviews and Phased Transfers', 'Enquiring about an existing EHCP or EHC Needs Assessment in progress', 'Finance and funding', 'Hub access, enquiries or issues', 'Mediations', 'Moving in or out of Hampshire', 'Safeguarding', 'Tribunals', and 'Something else'. At the bottom of the form is a 'Back' button.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026: School Teachers' Pay and Conditions

The Act sets out that:

- The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) will provide a pay floor for academies, meaning that they cannot pay below levels in the document, but they can still pay more if they wish (i.e. there is no pay ceiling)
- That academies must have regard to the STPCD meaning that they must properly consider the document, take it into account when making decisions and should normally follow it unless there is a good reason not to do so

Expected to come into force for September 2027 to enable academies to be engaged in the consultation process for the 2027 pay round

- **In addition** the DfE is looking at how maintained schools can be given more flexibility in relation to teacher's pay which is likely to include ability to go above the maximum of pay ranges and this is expected to be in the remit for the independent pay body for September 2027

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026: Qualified Teacher Status

The Act sets out that:

- From **September 2027**, mainstream academies will be required to **follow the same QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) rules as maintained schools**, with only limited, specific exemptions.
- **Applies to new staff:** Existing unqualified teachers can remain unless they change role and don't meet an exemption
- Does **not apply** to early years, special, AP, FE or UTCs
- National guidance (with examples of good practice) will be issued to support implementation and clarify expectations
- Free online HR Briefings - June/July 2026
- ~~Monday 29 June 2026 – 9.30-10.30am~~
- **Friday 3 July 2026 – 1-2pm**

Inclusion, SEND, Disadvantage

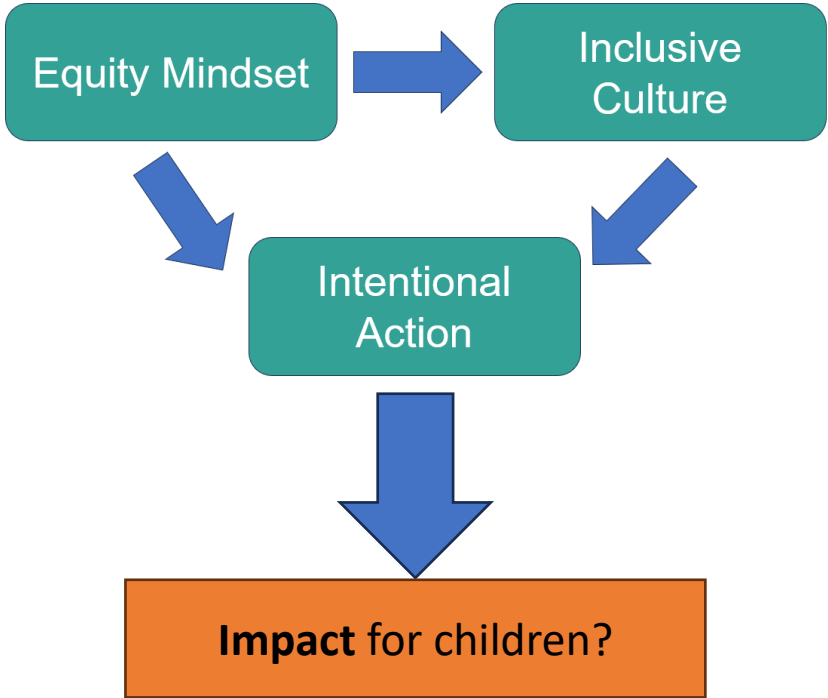
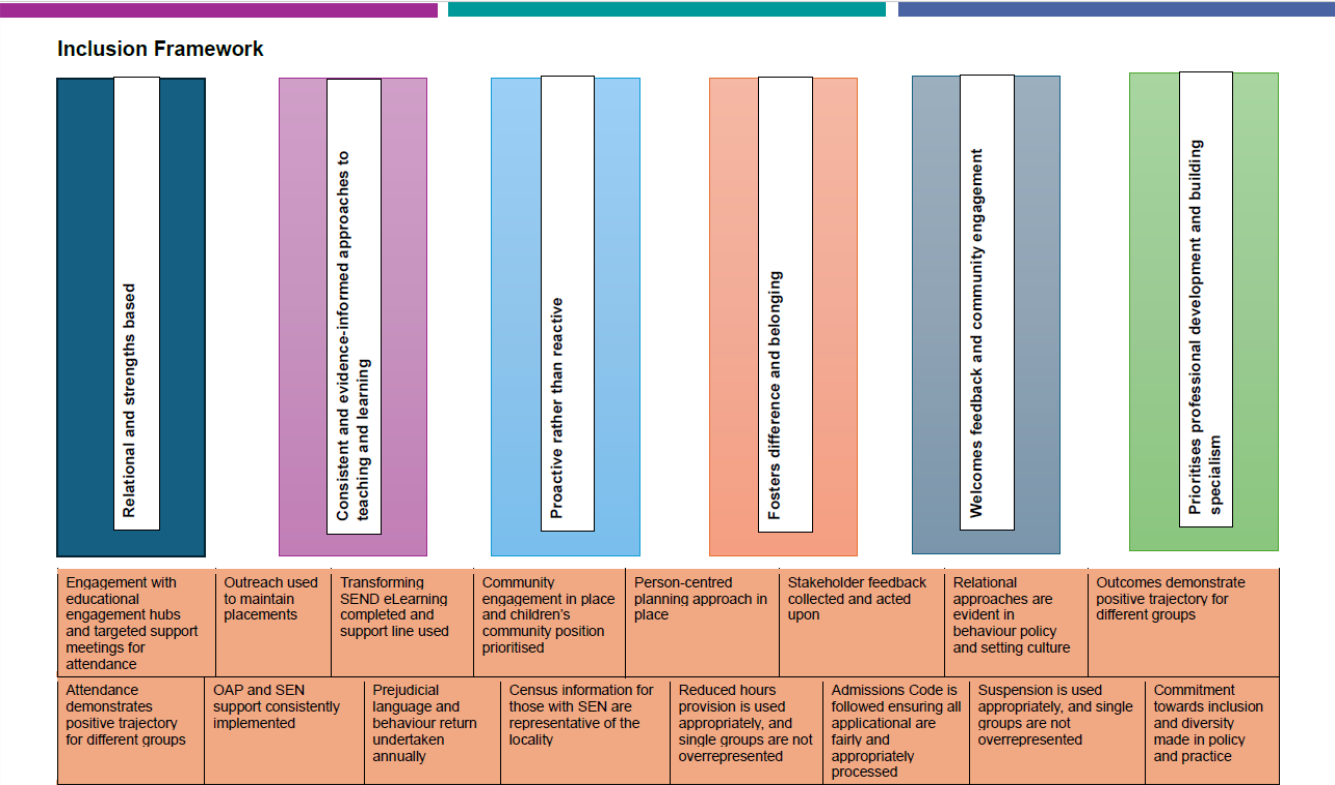
Coordinating briefings and networks

June 26

What is changing?

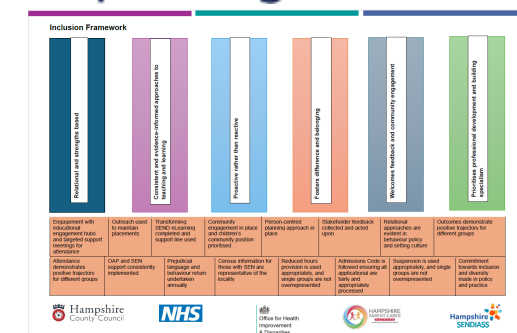
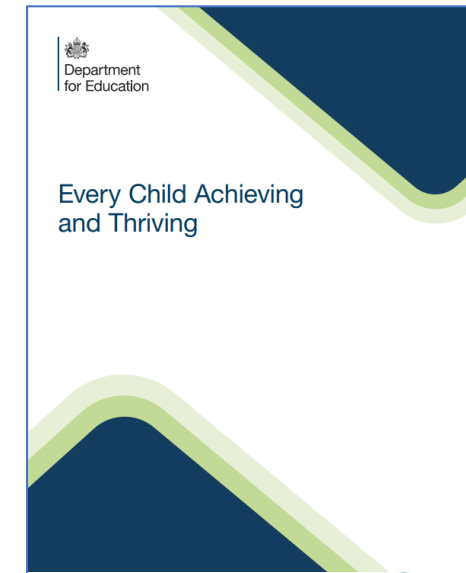
Half term 1: funded by LA,
Half term 2: part funded

Reorganisation of the HIAS network offer to ensure joined-up messaging on **inclusion**, **SEND** and **tackling impacts of economic disadvantage (TIED)** with a more integrated approach



Why change?

- DfE White Paper
 - Requirement for published 'Inclusion Strategy'
 - Implementation of 'Inclusion Bases'
 - Upcoming changes to Pupil Premium funding (subject to consultation)
 - Proposed changes to Pupil Premium Strategy requirements/format
- Ofsted
 - Inclusion category – references *all* vulnerable groups
 - Inclusion as a cross-cutting theme
- Hampshire
 - To reflect the Inclusion Framework
 - To support consistency of messaging about Inclusive practice



Inclusion Networks 2026-27

Half Term 1

Inclusion Briefing

3.30pm – 5.00pm

Led by Urmilla Choubae, Di Lowth, Chris Vaudin

Audience: senior leaders with overall responsibility for inclusion, SENCO, disadvantage leads

- Inclusion strategy and guidance
 - DfE policy
 - Inclusion spaces
- Hampshire inclusion framework
 - SEND-specific updates
 - Inclusion in practice updates
 - TIED updates
 - EMTAS updates
- Signposting of upcoming focus areas within distinct networks

Free to schools (multiple delegates encouraged)

Half Term 2

SEND Briefing

Audience: SENCO; senior leaders
Online briefing - Latest guidance

Free to attend

Inclusion Exchange

Audience: inclusion leads; pastoral leaders

In person - Practical sharing of best practice

Evidence-informed guidance - Active solution planning

Bookable on learning zone - Priced: Sub - £70 / SLA – £45 /
Full - £84

TIED Network

Audience: senior leaders; pupil premium strategy leads

In person - Evidence-informed strategy guidance

Sharing of best practice - Active project work

Bookable on learning zone - Priced: Sub - £70 / SLA – £45 / Full
- £84

Holiday Activity and Food Fund

Has your school signed up to provide the Holiday Activities and Food Programme?

Is your community aware?



**Funded by
UK Government**

**Free holiday activities
and meals for eligible
children this summer!**

Children in Reception to Year 11 receiving benefits-related free school meals can enjoy a variety of fun activities and healthy meals for free during the summer break through the Hampshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme!



Scan the QR code on the left to browse HAF schemes in your local area via our new booking system, or scan the code on the right to find out more about the HAF programme through the connect4communities website.



Book Schemes



HAF FAQs

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities>



[Hampshire](#)
[HAF](#)
[booking page](#)



Hampshire
County Council



**SHARED SERVICES
PARTNERSHIP**
Quality. Efficiency. Insight.

Children's Services (Hampshire schools)

Management Information Pack

Q4 2025/26

The UK's largest public sector shared services partnership.



Hampshire
County Council

Evaluation of Purchasing Card use

Key issues identified

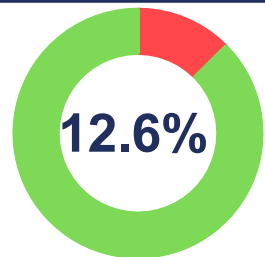
- **Weaknesses in purchasing processes:** delayed or missing purchase orders driving rejections & retrospective spend
- **Approval gaps:** high volume of unreviewed P-card transactions (6,247 in Q4)
- **Supplier/process issues:** e.g. missing PO values (42%), delayed PO creation (76% within 1–30 days)
- **Low digital adoption:** limited use of email for payslips/P45s (12.8%)

Key issues identified

Required actions

- **Improve purchasing compliance:** ensure timely and correct use of PO processes
- **Reduce retrospective orders:** enforce early PO creation
- **Strengthen P-card oversight:** increase approver accountability and compliance
- **Drive email verification:** promote uptake through staff engagement

HEADLIGHTS INSIGHT & ACTION



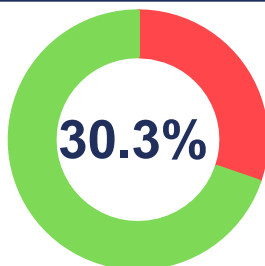
REJECTED INVOICES

HCC Schools to:

Ensure appropriate and timely use of purchasing routes to reduce proportion of rejected invoices.

Key suppliers include: Restore Datashred – 10%, Humly Hampshire Limited - 7%, RM Educational Resources Ltd – 5%

Key process issues: Purchase order quantity/value unavailable - 42%; advised to reject – 27%



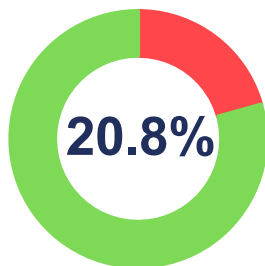
RETROSPECTIVE PURCHASE ORDERS

HCC Schools to:

Ensure appropriate and timely use of purchasing routes to reduce proportion of retrospective orders.

Key supplier: KFF Food Services – 6%

Key process issue: Purchase order delay 76% raised 1-30 days retrospectively; 12% raised 31-60 days retrospectively



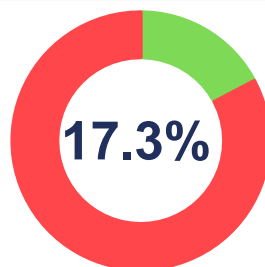
PURCHASING CARD APPROVERS

HCC Schools to:

Reduce non-approved transactions encouraging relevant purchasing card approvers towards compliance.

Total number of transactions not approved in Q4: 6,247

Key process issue: 9% of non-reviewed transactions are sat with 4 approvers



EMAIL VERIFICATION

HCC Schools to:

Promote the importance and simplicity of setting up an email verification through group meetings and staff engagement.

Key process issue: Only 12.8% of P45s and final payslips in Q4 were sent via email

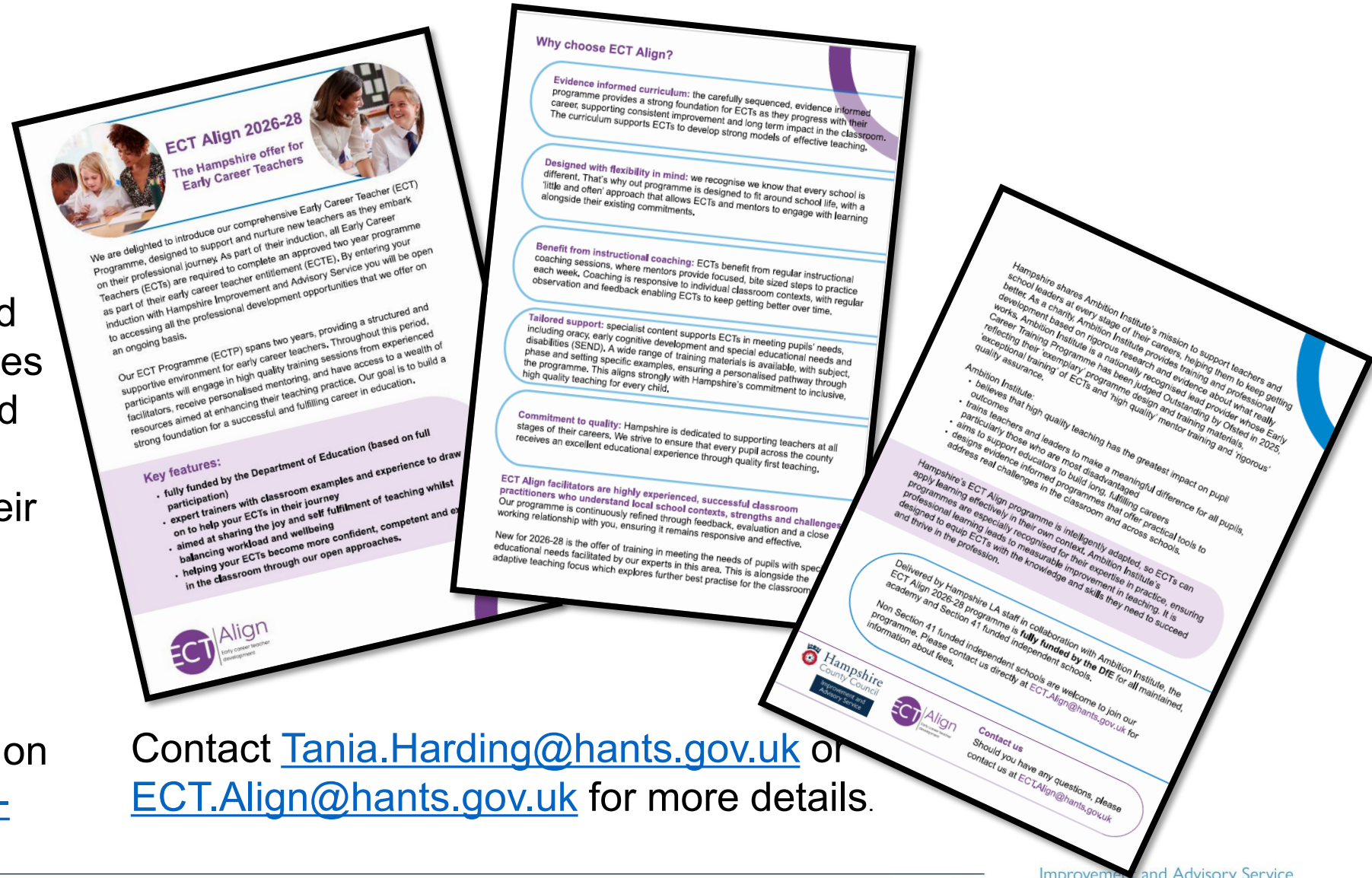
Early Career Framework: Hampshire Align

Do you have any ECTs starting with you in September 2026?

Hampshire's Early Career Teacher (ECT) newly updated induction training offer provides a comprehensive, fully funded programme designed to support new teachers and their schools across the two-year induction period.

More information is provided on the attached [ECT Align 2026-28 Flyer.pdf](#).

Contact Tania.Harding@hants.gov.uk or ECT.Align@hants.gov.uk for more details.





Hampshire Curriculum Conference 2026

Hampshire Primary Schools

Thursday 15 October 2026

For Headteachers, Senior Leaders and Curriculum Leads

Learning Outcomes:

- To inspire and reinvigorate colleagues to reflect, revisit and begin to revise their curriculum offer in light of the upcoming changes to the new curriculum.
- To provide clarity around the principles of effective curriculum design.
- To understand some of the processes to go through when reviewing your curriculum.
- To understand the future support and training opportunities available across Hampshire following the conference.
- To access expert support during workshop sessions in areas such as mixed-age class planning, Philosophy for Children and oracy.

Conference details

Date and time: 15 October 2026, 09:00 - 16:00

Location: Portsmouth Marriott Hotel

Cost: Sub £160 / SLA £50 / Full £192

Use the keyword **Curriculum Conference** to search and book on the Learning Zone.



Keynote Speaker: Emma Turner
School Improvement, Leadership,
T&L and Curriculum Specialist



A collage of various circular and oval-shaped artworks, including a bee, a car, a person, a landscape, and a globe, arranged in a circular pattern. The artworks are diverse in theme and style, featuring nature, urban scenes, and abstract designs. The collage is set against a dark blue background.

Save the Date – Hampshire Primary Climate Unity Virtual Conference

- A **free virtual event for Year 2 to Year 6** exploring sustainable initiatives locally and globally in a creative way.
- A morning of **engaging and practical online workshops** from experienced providers. All workshops include **hands-on activities**, along with **interactive mini-games** to keep children motivated and focused throughout.
- Schools are invited to log in to the conference directly from their classrooms and **connect with sustainability themes in meaningful ways, supporting sustainability and climate education.**
- **Over 4000 children** attended the last conference. This year we are delighted to invite **additional year groups** to be part of this exciting **primary conference.**

For further information look out for future school communications or contact Emma Groves at emma.groves@hants.gov.uk



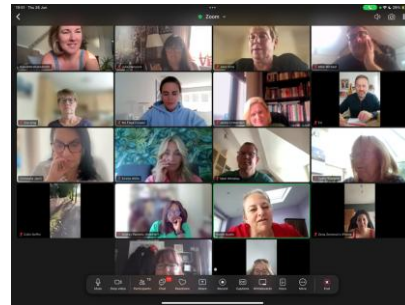
Support Available for Headteachers



A network community for school leaders focused on *intentional well-being support*

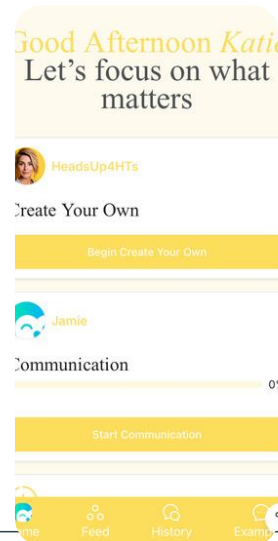
Coaching
Events
Book Clubs
Safe Spaces
Training
Workshops
Conference Keynotes

www.headsup4hts.co.uk



Peer Support Group- Every Wednesday

- Free, weekly support group for headteachers
- Friendly, confidential, non judgemental support
- Led by a HeadsUp4HTs Facilitator



Well-being App

- 24/7 Well-being support
- 24/7 Coaching
- Positive Psychology
- AI support based on
- HeadsUp4HTs insights
- £15pm



ImproveMe



A network community for school leaders focused on *intentional well-being support*

Coaching
Events
Book Clubs
Safe Spaces
Training
Workshops
Conference Keynotes

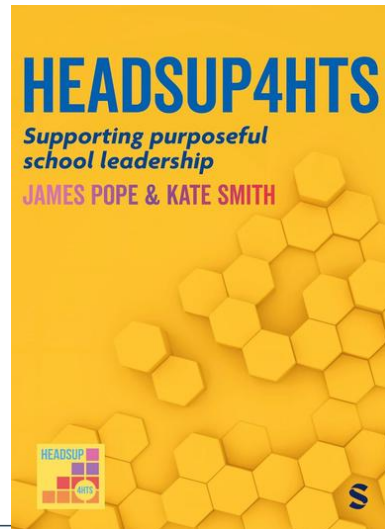
www.headsup4hts.co.uk

Support Available for Headteachers



1-1 Coaching for school leaders

- 1-1 coaching focused on sustainable leadership & well-being
- 6 x 1 hour session £895



Supporting Purposeful Leadership

- Written by Headteachers, for headteachers
- 9 steps to well-being
- Insights from thousands of headteachers
- Practical strategies to support well-being
- Available on Amazon £19.99