



ESSET UPDATE - SUMMER 15

Welcome to the first edition of ESSET UPDATE, a termly newsletter aimed at keeping colleagues informed regarding all ESSET activities and developments.

Let's start with a reminder of what ESSET is all about.

ESSET is established as a private company limited by guarantee, comprising of the eighteen Essex Special Schools. Directors of the company are the Headteachers of the eighteen schools. The company was established with the aim of leading Special Educational Needs Innovation in Essex providing a vehicle for sharing expertise to ensure all ESSET Schools were supported to provide outstanding outcomes for the young people of Essex.

Whilst the company does not employ any permanent staff there are a team of people working collectively to co-ordinate and develop the ESSET organisation.

Gary Smith	Headteacher Market Field	Chair of ESSET
Philippa Holliday	Headteacher Castledon	Vice Chair of ESSET and Essex Steps Strategic Lead
Judith Salter CBE	Headteacher Glenwood	ESSET Treasurer ably supported by her Business Manager, Karen Cavalla
Paul Ellis	Retired Headteacher of Southview School	ESSET Collaborative Officer
Gary Bloom	ECC Secondee	ESSET Director of Operations
Joel Shaljean	Market Field's Secondee	Essex Steps Operational Lead
Claire Lloyd	Oak View Secondee	Essex Steps Admin Assistant.
Geoff Slide	Essex Clerking Services	Clerk to ESSET

In addition Headteacher colleagues and staff in schools are supporting ESSET's training programme by writing and delivering training packages.

ESSET Developments

1. Essex Steps



ESSET has been commissioned by the County Council to develop and deliver the Essex Steps approach to all Essex Schools. Essex Steps is grounded on sound practice based evidence which has been well monitored and evaluated. It is endorsed by Essex County Council and included on the Essex Local Offer.

The programme is designed to provide high quality understanding and training in the management of behaviour and the prevention of behaviour from escalating. It includes ethical restrictive physical intervention (restraint) training.

Staff across ESSET have been trained in Essex Steps and under the stewardship of Joel as Operational Lead, a number of Tutors are qualified to deliver the course to delegates from special and mainstream schools.

Starting from June the course will run regularly at venues around the County on a Monday and Thursday, in addition twilight sessions can be arranged with Essex Steps admin.

ESSET will be paid for delivering the course and schools providing tutors will be reimbursed for their tutor's time. A business model and a partnership with Essex Education Services ensures the course can be delivered and administered at a reasonable cost to delegates whilst generating a small surplus to invest in improving the Essex Steps product.

Essex Steps can be contacted via essexsteps@esset.org.uk

2. Future SEN School Leadership Programme

ESSET has been commissioned by the County Council to develop and deliver a Leadership Programme that will ensure a future supply of outstanding leaders for special schools and specialist provisions in the future. This is a key component of ESSET's succession planning process.

The ESSET Team of;

Emma Paramor	Headteacher	Langham Oaks
Jo Hodges	Headteacher	Shorefields
Julian Cochrane	Headteacher	Southview
Dianne Ryan	Headteacher	Oakview
Gary Bloom	Programme Manager	ESSET Director of Operations

Are currently developing a practitioner lead accredited programme, which under an innovative partnership with University of East London will form three units of a Masters qualification as well as a standalone diploma.

Candidates will be able to book onto the course from September 16, individual course modules will be piloted from September 15. The qualification will be seen as the benchmark for future special school leaders.

Again a business model ensures that both ESSET benefit and ESSET schools are reimbursed for their time in supporting the delivery of the programme.

3. Langham Oaks School

The newest member of ESSET is Langham Oaks School, which opened on 1 April 2015. Langham Oaks is a new academy formed as a result of the downsizing of Ramsden Hall School onto a single site. Whilst it was hoped originally that ESSET would be approved to sponsor new special academies and free schools in Essex the Secretary of State ruled that whilst the majority of members of ESSET were not academies the Trust would not be approved as a sponsor. As a result the Seax Trust was established, with ESSET representation at member level and approved as sponsor to the new Langham Oaks School.

<http://www.seaxtrust.com/>

<http://ramsden.webplus.net/langham/index.html>

4. School Lead System

Essex is currently moving towards a school lead system and we want to position ESSET prominently in this agenda.

The School Lead system consists of schools playing a leading role in supporting the system in areas such as school improvement, training and advice, supporting the decision making process, taking the lead in SEN panels, placement and resourcing decisions and developing specialist provision.

There are a number of workstreams where ESSET are prominent and as the Local Authority reduces to a lean, efficient commissioning authority clusters of schools and organisations such as ESSET have a key role to play in leading SEN across Essex.

An ESSET strategic plan is currently being developed to demonstrate how ESSET can lead SEN innovation in Essex.

5. Investing in Specialist Provision

One key area where ESSET is working in concert with the local authority is co-creating the design of the specialist provision required to support the Essex pledge of an Essex Place for Every Essex Child.

ESSET has identified the number and type of specialist places it feels are required to reduce significantly the number of pupils placed in out of authority independent schools. As a result a number of capital schemes have been proposed by the Local Authority and initial feasibility/viability studies have been completed and prioritised. A paper is being presented to Schools' Forum in June to secure agreement to deliver the capital schemes proposed. These schemes maximise the available estate and aim to locate provision as close to demand as possible. ESSET will play a key role in delivering this new provision as the proposal is to build on the outstanding provision already available from ESSET schools by expanding some schools to deliver new provision.

In addition to new buildings and places the ESSET proposal requires additional factors to be present to meet the Essex pledge;

These factors include;

- ✓ Swift and Easy access to a full range of therapy services;
- ✓ Swift and Easy access to high quality mental health services;
- ✓ Availability of Boarding/Respite provision for some young people and their families;
- ✓ Greater flexibility in the resource packages available to schools;
- ✓ Well designed and well-resourced buildings to deliver new specialist places;
- ✓ A shared understanding of the most appropriate placement for pupils.

ESSET is heavily involved in driving this agenda forward to ensure a special school system that is fit for purpose for the future.

6. ESSET Website and Email

ESSET has purchased the domain name <http://esset.org.uk/> and a simple webpage has been established. ESSET has also been approved to use Google Apps for Education and therefore has a number of user accounts available for ESSET staff to access both ESSET emails and share documents across schools.

As ESSET expands these facilities will ensure timely sharing of key information and avoid unnecessary duplication across ESSET schools.

7. Collaborative Officers Report

CAMHS Stakeholder Group 5th May

The meeting heard that the new CAMHS Provider was to be announced during June. We were assured that Children and young people with Learning Difficulties were now included in the specification that the new provider had bid against. This means that there should be an improved service from our sectors perspective.

The need to develop guidance for schools on dealing with self-harm and on bereavement was also discussed and placed on the agenda for future work as part of a developing Emotional Health and Well Being agenda. This will be led by Christina Pace the current commissioner dealing with CAMHS.

School Lead Improvement Board 8th May 2015

This Board has been developed between the Local Authority (LA) and the School Representative Bodies (ASHE, EPHA and ESSET) through consultation to institute a new model for School to School support. This recognises the shrinking role of LA in direct work with schools. The idea is to set up local self-supporting school clusters who will mutually provide support and Continuing Professional Development for their staff. There is a lot of work to be done in defining how these clusters will be developed, governed and managed and how schools will be invited to form them.

It will be a complimentary development with the changes in Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding model for mainstream learners with special needs. Here the funding for children and young people with 'One Plans' (replacing the old School Action and School Action Plus) will, it is proposed, come via virtual budgets given to SEND clusters, yet to be developed.

Investigation into Local College Funding to work with Special Schools 8th May

I was tasked to discover why Local FE colleges had received funding to work with Special Schools but had not yet done so. In brief the funding had been given but the timetable had slipped and the dates by which we should have been approached were not met. Suzanne Davis managing the funding for the LA has agreed to meet and speak to the ESSET directors about the programme and what we can expect from it and its impact for our learners in terms of improved access and curriculum experiences.

Transitions to Adulthood Forum 11th May

This was a jointly chaired meeting by Eleanor September (Parent/carer) and Mark Stancer (Family Operations Social Care). The agenda was to review the group's membership, schedule of meetings, and review feedback from the 'Preparing for Adulthood' event attended by Judi Salter, Head of Glenwood School, and review priorities and pledges derived from the day. There were additional contributions on

the work of the Local Job Centre Plus and how it will be working with our young people. The meeting is an opportunity to share information and understand the pressures of transition for parents and young people. The imperative for service managers present is to commit to improve their response and joint working and to pool their reducing resources to support our young people and families.

Paul Ellis (ESSET Collaborative Officer}.

8. And Finally

Congratulations to Kath Wall on her appointment as Headteacher of Harlow Fields School and to Simon Wall and his team at Lexden Springs School on their recent Ofsted inspection.