

WSOA Monitoring Meeting-27th April 2022

Peter Feedback Notes

I joined this late, due to a clashing meeting, so these notes are from the second half of the meeting...

The purpose of this meeting was for the WSOA leads / vice-leads to present progress so far to the DFE. The meeting was led by Saah Rempel, and each WSOA area was presented in turn. The slides were presented jointly by BCP and Dorset CCG, with the main focus on the areas rated as Amber or Red

Essentially this felt like BCP and CCG leaders aiming to defend themselves in the face of questions from the DFE / NHS 'advisors'.

The main people doing the questioning were Keith Thompson (DFE) and Rayanna Stephens (NHS England) and Gabrielle Stacey (DFE) and Heather Campbell (DFE). Keith said he'll be retiring/leaving (?) and handing over to Gabrielle from now on.

The most interesting exchange was when Heather C announced that DFE plans to chair this meeting in future (instead of Sarah R chairing)

Cathi Hadley: wants to understand the process - what report goes to the DFE? Will it be shared with this group? What's the reason for you wanting to chair? Where is the written guidance for this?

Heather: no, there's no report back to Ofsted / CQC - 'we're here as advisors'. Main objective is to ask questions that challenge.

Keith: we do provide a feedback note to the LA

The outcome of this conversation was that Heather & Cathi will take this offline, to agree how to monitor this going forward.

My reflection was that it is good to see that the DFE are taking a close interest in progress against the WSOA. BCP leaders seemed quite defensive, and Cathi Hadley would clearly prefer to keep the DFE advisers at a distance if possible. I think it is good that this set-up exists, because it might help to prevent BCP from pretending to themselves that the service is improving, when really there's so much work to do.

Peter Phillips