



Becta/ADCS Liaison meeting with the ADCS Information Systems and Technology Policy Committee

11th October 2007

Present:

Richard Stiff - North Lincs Council, Mike Kendall - emrbc, Sue Wilson - Rotherham MBC

Helen Warner - RBKC, Greg Hill - SEGfL, Colin Feltham - Kent CC

Lindsey Newton - Dudley MBC, Leanne Hornsby - Knowsley MBC

Mike Custance - Hackney/ADASS, Geoff Black - Gloucestershire CC

Ian Adams (IA) - Becta, Niel McLean - NM (Becta), George Kyriacos - Becta

Tony Eccleston – Bracknell-Forest, John Harrolds - NGfL

Apologies:

Damien Allen – Knowsley, David Woodward – Hampshire, John Nash - Poole

Meera Spillet - Norfolk CC, Mike Briscoe – Becta, Steve Liddicott – Croydon,

Amanda Curtis Cheshire CC.

This was the first liaison meeting between Becta and the new ADCS Information Systems and Technology Committee, and has built on the relationship that Becta had with ConfEd - its predecessor. The discussion between the two groups was wide ranging and only some items of the original agenda were discussed.

The Association of Directors of Children's Services - ADCS - is the national leadership Association in England for statutory directors of children's services and other children's services professionals in leadership roles. The association was formed on 9 February 2007 and brought together ConfEd (confederation of Education Managers and the children's part of the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS)).

1. NM and IA gave an overview to the new group of how Becta is now structured and that Harnessing Technology is driving the organisation's work, together with a brief description of the responsibilities of Executive Directors.
2. After some discussion on the focus of Becta's work, ADCS commented that '**ECM is the only game in town!**' There was a feeling expressed by the senior LA representatives that our respective compasses are pointing in different directions at times in terms of current key priorities. The focus of JAR and other LA inspections are pushing the work of DCS towards the ECM agenda as much as on education standards.
3. Concern was expressed on the role that LAs are seen to have in Becta meeting its targets. They believe they have the greatest impact on the delivery of Becta's targets and they have not been involved in how they are set or in negotiations regarding delivery mechanisms. Some participants raised criticisms that Becta targets were not sufficiently supporting the ECM agenda and that Becta needed to develop a new relationship with LAs. It was emphasised that these were Becta and not system targets.
4. There were major concerns expressed about Becta's planning timeframe and the financial planning of LAs. LAs are keen to support the work of Becta and asked

that they be involved in negotiating targets in which they have a role. To support this, there was a specific request that a 'map' showing Becta targets against the potential support/delivery role of LAs. In addition, the 'map' should also show how Becta's existing partners map onto the organisations targets and priorities.

5. A workshop was proposed as a means of beginning the dialogue regarding delivery mechanisms and this has been arranged for 16 November 2007.
6. There was a request for the Becta regional teams to be more children's services focussed so that they could engage more with the DCS and ECM derived priorities.
7. There was discussion around the MOU between CEOPS, ADCS and the e-safety agenda. There was a suggestion that Becta should be a third party to this MOU and it was decided to discuss this at some time in the future/next meeting.
8. The Co-Chair of ADCS raised the question whether this was the only committee for interfacing with Becta.
9. Overall, there was an impression that LAs wanted to support the work of Becta and this meeting laid the foundation for doing this
10. The next meeting is arranged for 14 February 2008