



Special Schools and Specialist Colleges – same language, different accent?

Claire Dorer - CEO

# NASS and Natspec Links

- Share at least 24 organisations in membership
- Attend many of same groups SEC, Contracts, High Needs
- Have lobbied together, e.g. on Children and Families Act 2014
- Occasional joint events, e.g. IPSEA



# Members share many common experiences ...



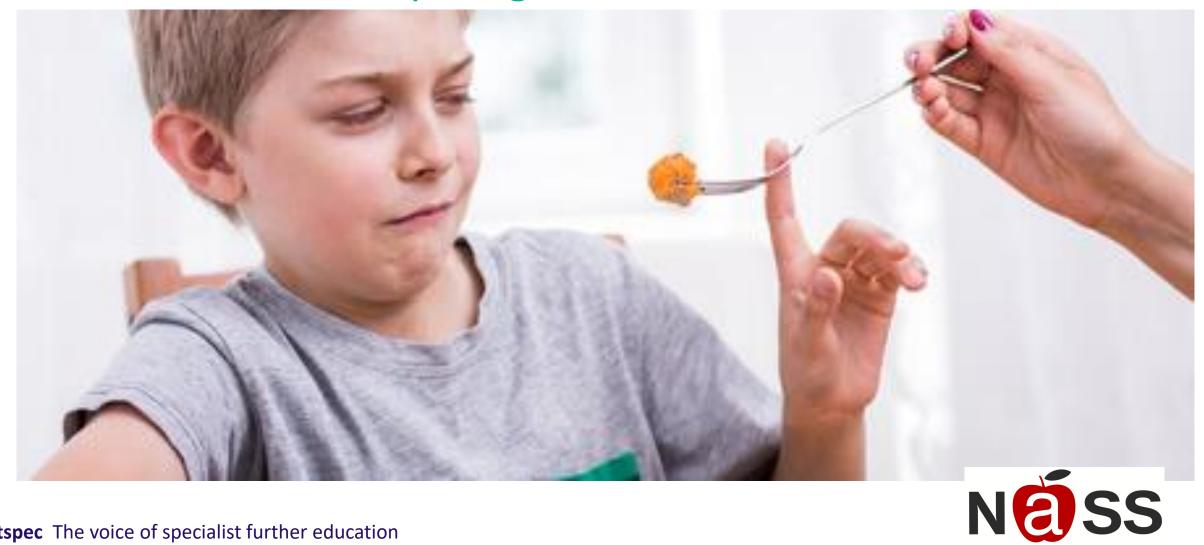


# Until High Needs Funding Reforms, we used to envy colleges!





# ... and we are still quite glad we don't have to do the ILR!



# Current challenges for schools

- 80% of sector seeing steady or increasing student numbers where does this leave the 20% with falling numbers?
- Still too much time spent on procurement and contracting very little advantage to schools to taking part
- Struggling to recruit and retain staff
- LAs disengaged from students they place poor information provided at placement and poor attendance at annual reviews
- Generally seen as a problem within the system, rather than an asset and resource

#### Changing face of students

- All schools working with children with mental health difficulties

   often with little support from CAMHS or having to develop
   their own mental health services
- All schools work with children with autism, regardless of named specialism. A real challenge for those that specialise in areas such as SI and SpLCN
- Increasing complexity in children referred to schools –
   behaviours which challenge and serious mental illness
- Rise in number of referrals for primary age children



## What's that coming over the hill?

- New Liberty Protection Safeguards
- Independent Inquiry into Childhood Sexual Abuse in residential schools – some schools named
- Lobbying from parent groups on use of restraint in schools –
   how do we support rather than vilify schools?



## Challenges for NASS

- How do we support our member schools to be seen as a solution to the 'SEND Crisis' – how do we do more to share with mainstream?
- How do we support leaders in our schools? Increased focus on staff wellbeing across recruitment and retention strategy and new Ofsted inspection strategy
- Can we ever get a straight answer on procurement?!



## Our project work in 2019

- Leadership Development Programme
- Spirals of Inquiry student-centered learning
- New 'Incubator' project taking great ideas out of schools and into the wider world
- Supervision for school leaders creating thinking space



#### Alongside the day work of ...

- Annual conference October 2019 Brighton colleges very welcome!
- Special Interest Groups Teaching and learning, HR, Finance,
   Care and Resarch
- Lobbying for the sector new High Needs Ministerial group
- National terms and conditions for High Needs Placements
- Advice and support to schools

