

Information on the role of consortia chairs					Phase
Function	<div><div>You need to identify a ‘deputy’ chair for the consortia, and a ‘vice deputy’ chair as well. Share this and their contact details with the schools in your consortium and the LA.</div><div>Each school is being asked to draw up a continuity plan, pairing with another school which is geographically close, for support. These must share this with the LA and with the consortia chair.</div><div>Draw up a step-down plan for a reduction of sites for YOUR consortium group (based upon information received from headteachers about pairing for support etc). It cannot be exactly the same for all consortia groups because the context and size of each consortium is so different.</div><div>Eventually this may mean reducing the number of sites open, but for now, work to keeping all open by sharing resources ie teaching staff, TAs and cleaning and caretaking staff.</div></div>				
Oversight	<div>The consortium chair will oversee continuity for their group of schools. This means:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting the ‘pairs of schools’ to develop their continuity planSharing plans from one pair to othersLooking at the distribution of numbers of children across their schoolsLooking at the distribution of children in each criteria (EHCP, vulnerable) and whether additional staffing might be required in some schoolsEnsuring equity across the schools, i.e. are staffing rotas equitable? Everyone needs to support each other and be mindful of this.Sharing across the consortia where additional capacity lies if neededKnowing the various catering arrangements and where there may be capacity if neededAware of transport issues if they occur and the arrangements schools have in place for additional capacity, with the transport providers</div>				
To consider	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">An important part of the work you will be doing is ensuring as much as possible that plans do not crowd children and adults together because of the need for social distancing. The numbers of children and adults and the size of the site need to be consideredSites that have kitchens are an important part of the FSM provision for both children on site and those needing to be fed elsewhere. The FSM plan will not be the same for all contexts. The kitchens will feed the children on site, and may help other FSM planned actions. Please consider keeping these sites open at all timesSome mainstream schools may have children with EHC plans who need specific equipment such as showers and hoists. If these children are attending school, they must have access to the relevant equipmentl. These schools may also have to stay open at all timesThe plan will need to be flexible. Sites may close as part a planned reduction, but then be required to open again as other sites need to close. Neither closure nor staying open is fixed. As circumstances change this might changeIn YOUR consortium, it may be necessary to keep particular sites open, even if there are few or none of the normal staff on site. Heads will need key information about the site, available to those staff who will be operating the siteAll staff who are fit and well, will be ‘at work’ and therefore may be required to work in alternative, unfamiliar sites. The build up to the highest infection rate is expected to be 10 to 14 weeks from now. Staff may be ill for several weeks, but then come back into the fold, as others fall ill. Staff availability will be key in the planningLarger consortium groups may decide to split into smaller ‘locality’ groups, to plan a reduction in sitesThe LA will have your back! But self help in the first instance will be your first course of action</div>				
Contribution to wider LA strategy	<div>Consortia chairs will also be key in developing further strategies, as the picture changes in the coming weeks. We are in uncharted waters and as the scale of our task becomes known, other, better ideas may be suggested and developed. The key points are:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Be aware of the pressure points in your consortia and where the flexibilities are that might solve themShare information with the LA regularly, as the LA will share information with youExpect to find plans change from day to day as the situation we are in changesBe a solution finder! Based on your evidence gathered ‘on the ground’, when you see patterns that can be solved by acting differently, share with the LA</div>				