

Cornwall Association of Primary Headteachers

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www.caph.org.uk

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Cornwall Association
of Primary Heads

CAPH Impact Summary – December 2025

CAPH's work since January 2025 reflects a growing and increasingly recognised strategic role in shaping the direction, coherence and culture of the education system in Cornwall. Through its leadership within the Cornwall Education Partnership (CEP), wider board representation and aligned professional networks, CAPH has ensured that the voice and needs of the primary sector are firmly embedded in countywide planning, decision-making and delivery. This work supports school leaders and teaching teams, while also creating opportunities for operational teams within the Cornwall Operational Group for Schools (COGS) to work more efficiently and cohesively.

1. System Leadership Through the Cornwall Education Partnership

CAPH's involvement in the CEP continues to be one of its most significant contributions. As a neutral, trusted representative of the primary sector, CAPH has helped steer collective priorities across all phases, creating coherence between early years and primary and developing links to secondary and post-16 planning.

Key achievements include:

- Shaping CEP agendas on early intervention, safeguarding, SEND reform and vulnerable learners.
- Strengthening the flow of intelligence from schools into countywide strategic discussions (Operations Board), helping operational teams plan and resource more effectively.
- Ensuring national reforms (for example SEND and behaviour) are interpreted consistently across Cornwall, reducing duplication and uncertainty.
- Aligning CPD and sector-wide guidance with shared CEP objectives, giving schools clear, coherent tools for implementation.

CAPH has actively driven the development of a more collaborative cross-phase network, strengthening partnership working with the Cornwall Association of Secondary Heads (CASH), the Cornwall Association of Chief Executives (CACE), OneCornwall and the Cornwall Research School. This CAPH-led coordination has created more stable, joined-up decision-making, reduced duplication across agencies and enabled schools and leaders to operate within a clearer, more predictable system.

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2. CAPH Board Leadership and Strategic Representation

Across the CAPH Board, and other local and national boards, CAPH provides informed, forward-looking representation to ensure primary schools' needs remain visible in policy and resource planning.

Contributions this year include:

- Supporting governance discussions on finance, school sustainability, attendance, early years and vulnerable learners, directly informing operational planning within COGS teams.
- Providing clarity and challenge in countywide forums to ensure decisions reflect the realities of primary provision.
- Strengthening partnerships with the Local Authority, education and health services and multi-agency teams, enabling joined-up delivery across all aspects of the school system.
- Amplifying feedback from school leaders and operational teams to inform strategic change and emerging priorities.

CAPH's measured and constructive communication reinforces its role as a key system partner for school leaders and operational colleagues alike.

3. Professional Networks Aligned to CEP and Board Priorities

CAPH's networks, including SEND and Inclusion, Safeguarding and Child Protection and others, feed directly into its strategic role and provide operational intelligence that informs system-level decisions.

SEND and Inclusion Network:

- Informed the Joint SEND Strategy and highlighted gaps affecting school leaders, teaching teams and operational services.
- Shaped decisions on speech and language provision, neurodevelopmental pathways and early intervention tools.
- Supported the development of coherent approaches across education and operations.
- Promoted resources such as CODE Maths Hub, Kernow English Hub and the EYFS Service, supporting both curriculum and service planning.

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Safeguarding and Child Protection Network:

- Strengthened countywide safeguarding practice and clarified emerging risks for leadership and operational teams.
- Contributed to CEP and Board discussions on thresholds, processes, multi-agency communication, digital safety and trauma-informed practice.
- Ensured safeguarding decisions are grounded in practical realities, benefiting school leaders, teaching teams and COGS staff.

4. Evidence of Impact Across the System

CAPH's strategic engagement through the CEP, representation on key boards and insights from its networks have contributed to system-wide improvements that benefit schools and operational teams alike:

- Greater coherence and alignment, with clear connections between schools, MATs, the Local Authority, health partners and wider agencies, reducing duplication and supporting coordinated planning.
- Stronger early intervention and inclusion through improved pathways, enhanced collaboration and timely support for children and families.
- Enhanced sector-wide consistency, including common expectations, shared approaches and aligned guidance across leadership, curriculum, SEND, safeguarding and wider priorities.
- More informed strategic leadership, with leaders and operational teams receiving timely intelligence on trends, pressures and risks.
- A more connected and collaborative sector, with strengthened relationships across phases and organisations supporting problem-solving and system stability.

5. Overall Contribution to Cornwall's Education System

CAPH's value lies not only in operational delivery but also in shaping countywide strategy. By combining sector intelligence, professional learning, practical tools and principled representation, CAPH now plays a central role in:

- Shaping priorities and informing policy.
- Providing evidence from schools to guide decisions across leadership and operations.
- Supporting collaborative solutions.
- Promoting inclusion, safety and early support that benefits children and the workforce.

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Conclusion

Through leadership within the Cornwall Education Partnership, strong representation on key boards and strategic use of its networks, CAPH has contributed to a more coherent, connected and responsive education system. Its work ensures that primary schools and operational teams are not only heard at a strategic level but actively shape initiatives that improve outcomes for children, families and the workforce across Cornwall.

Emma Kerr
Strategic Lead, CAPH
December 2025

Sources for report:

SEND and Inclusion Network meetings: agendas and minutes for Spring, Summer and Autumn

Safeguarding Network meetings: agendas and minutes for Spring, Summer and Autumn

CEP: agendas and minutes for Spring, Summer and Autumn

Operations Board: agendas and minutes for Spring, Summer and Autumn