

22 February 2017

HIGH NEEDS ITEMS FROM SEND WORKSTREAMS 2017-18

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the support of the Forum for a number of high needs proposals from the SEND workstreams for 2017-18.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Forum is asked:
- to support the proposal to change the eligibility criteria for multiple cases in ENF allocations
 - support the proposal to cease the historic funding arrangements for the six Physical and Neurological Impairment (PNI) designated mainstream secondary schools
 - support the proposal for funding the remaining pupils at Barnwell Visual Impairment (VI) Unit after its proposed closure

3. Background

- 3.1 The issues in this paper have been referred from the Forum held on 7 December 2017

4. Exceptional Needs Funding (ENF) - Multiple cases

- 4.1 A detailed report on ENF was presented to the Forum in December. The ENF workstream recommended that the multiple cases eligibility criteria should be changed to take into account forms of entry rather than simply pupil number criteria. It was agreed that the details of the proposed change should be brought to a later Forum.
- 4.2 Schools currently receive funding for pupils with exceptional needs as agreed by the area ENF panels. Schools are expected to fund the first £6,000 towards the cost of each pupil. However additional funding is payable to those schools with large numbers of high needs pupils. This is known as "multiple case" funding and full allocations will be made to pupils where numbers exceed a defined threshold. Eligible schools will receive funding to support their contributions of £6,000.

- 4.3 Currently the threshold is based on a “pupil number” model and it is proposed to move to a “form of entry” model. The proposed new arrangements are outlined below.

Primary:

The threshold will rise in 0.5 increments for each half a class of the school’s PAN. For example, a one-and-a-half form of entry primary school will have a multiple cases threshold of 1.5 pupils. (Modified arrangements will operate for schools with less than 7 year groups i.e. first, infant and junior).

Secondary:

The threshold will rise in 0.25 increments for each half a class of the school’s PAN. For example, five forms of entry secondary school will have a multiple cases threshold of 2.5 pupils. (Modified arrangements will operate for schools with less than 5 year groups i.e. middle, upper and 14-19).

Thresholds will be adjusted when a school’s on-roll number is at least one form of entry under its PAN.

The table below sets out the financial implications of the new model.

| Proposed Changes to Multiple Cases Thresholds 2016-17 | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Current Funding | Proposed Funding |
| No Schools | 486 | 486 |
| No Schools in Receipt of Multiple Cases | 210 | 202 |
| % Schools in Receipt of Multiple Cases | 43.2% | 41.6% |
| Average School in Receipt of Multiple Cases | £8,967 | £8,589 |
| | | |
| No Schools | 402 | 402 |
| No Primary in Receipt of Multiple Cases | 191 | 174 |
| % Primary in Receipt of Multiple Cases | 47.5% | 43.3% |
| Average Primary in Receipt of Multiple Cases | £8,152 | £7,713 |
| Total Primary | £1,557,000 | £1,342,000 |
| | | |
| No Schools | 84 | 84 |
| No Secondary in Receipt of Multiple Cases | 19 | 28 |
| % Secondary in Receipt of Multiple Cases | 22.6% | 33.3% |
| Average Secondary in Receipt of Multiple Cases | £17,158 | £14,036 |
| Total Secondary | £326,000 | £393,000 |
| | | |
| Total Expenditure on Multiple Cases | £1,883,000 | £1,735,000 |
| | | |
| Reduction in Expenditure | | £148,000 |

5. Funding for Pupils with Physical & Neurological Impairment (PNI)

- 5.1 Historically additional funding has been provided to six secondary schools to enable access for pupils with PNI. Now that all schools are expected to increase access for pupils with SEND and anticipate their needs in line with the Equality Act, this historical arrangement has been reviewed through the Physical and Sensory Workstream of the SEND Strategy. This has led to a proposal that this model should cease and funding arrangements for all pupils with PNI in mainstream schools should be in line with the overall system of funding pupils with SEN in mainstream schools, including ENF where appropriate.
- 5.2 Each of the six designated secondary schools receives an annual lump sum of £8,962 and a per pupil amount of £4,343. Currently, a total of 6 pupils across the 6 schools are funded through this mechanism and it is expected that from September 2017 only 4 pupils eligible for this funding will be on roll at these schools. In addition to this funding some of the pupils are also in receipt of individual ENF allocations.
- 5.3 It is proposed therefore to cease the current model of funding designated schools from September 2017. The needs of these pupils would be met from the mainstream SEN funding arrangements, including ENF if appropriate. The table below sets out the current funding position and the part year cost if the funding model ceases from September.

| Designated Schools | Current Number on roll | Lump sum per Unit | top up per pupil | Total top up | Total Designated Funding |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | No | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Adeyfield | 0 | 8,962 | 4,243 | 0 | 8,962 |
| Beaumont | 2 | 8,962 | 4,243 | 8,486 | 17,448 |
| Broxbourne | 2 | 8,962 | 4,243 | 8,486 | 17,448 |
| Chauncey | 1 | 8,962 | 4,243 | 4,243 | 13,205 |
| Stanborough | 0 | 8,962 | 4,243 | 0 | 8,962 |
| The Barclay | 1 | 8,962 | 4,243 | 4,243 | 13,205 |
| | 6 | 53,772 | | 25,458 | 79,230 |

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Cost April 17 to Aug 17 | £33,013 |
|-------------------------|---------|

6. Barnwell VI Unit

- 6.1 As a result of the successful model of supporting pupils with visual impairment in local mainstream schools the numbers in the VI Unit at Barnwell School have reduced and only 2 pupils are expected to be on roll there in September 2017. The Physical and Sensory Workstream and the SEND Executive proposed that consideration be given to de-commissioning

the unit. A public consultation has now taken place regarding the proposed closure. Approval is being sought from the Cabinet Panel on 20 February to publish a statutory proposal to close the VI Unit on 31 August 2017.

- 6.2 The VI Unit is currently funded for 7 places at £10k per place and a top up for each pupil on roll. From September 2017 it is expected there will be 2 pupils in the unit and it is proposed to continue the funding for these at a cost of £24,754 per pupil for as long as the pupils remain at the school. This is equivalent to the place plus top up funding. The school will cease to receive any place funding from September 2017 if the proposed closure goes ahead. The saving in place funding for 2017-18 will be just over £29k (5 x £10k for 7 months).

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Forum is asked to agree the recommendations in section 2.

