

18 September 2018

Update from High Needs Sub-Group

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Author:- Yvonne Medlam
Tel:- 07741 500490

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update from the High Needs Funding Sub-group

2. Summary

2.1 An initial report on the Schools Budget Strategy for 2019-20 is included under another item on this agenda and assesses the resource from the Dedicated Schools Grant that will be available in 2019-20. This report provides information on the High needs budget in more detail as reported in the latest High Needs Sub-group minutes and is attached as appendix A.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Schools Forum is asked to

- a) note the latest minutes of High Needs Funding Sub-group
- b) agree to the request to delegate the decision to approve final special school funded places for 2019-20 to the High Needs Funding sub group, and subject to the Group's agreement to submit these changes to the EFA
- c) agree to request the disapplication of the MFG in the calculation of the special school top up rates for 2019-20

4. Background

4.1 An update of the High Needs budget is provided which will be further updated at future meetings of the Forum. Two specific items require the approval of the Forum at this meeting

5 Delegated Decision – Special school places

5.1 A return is required to be submitted to the EFA for any changes in the number of funded places in special schools, special units and FE colleges in 2019/20 by mid-November. As the date of submission is before the next Schools Forum the

Forum is asked to delegate the decision regarding any place changes to the High Needs Funding Sub-group. (The attached minutes, item 2, refer to discussions that have so far taken place).

The final proposed changes will be taken to the High Needs sub group on 18th November and submitted to the EFA by the deadline.

6 Special School Top Ups and Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

6.1 Top Ups

Special School top ups include an element which delivers a lump sum to each element of the top up and varies between schools depending on the size of the school. The lump sum is intended to cover fixed costs and protect small schools. Where there is a change in funded places the lump sum element will be recalculated so that the same lump sum is delivered to the school. Where the size of the school increases the lump sum element of the top up reduces because it is a per pupil allocation. The opposite will apply if places numbers decrease. See illustration below of two schools of similar type.

	Funded Places	Lump Sum Top-Up / Place	Total Lump Sum
School A	140	£1,952.04	£273,286
School B	64	£4,078.90	£273,286
If increase places & don't reduce top up:			
School B	140	£4,078.90	£571,046
If increase places & reduce top up:			
School B	140	£1,952.04	£273,286

By not reducing the top up as numbers increase school B will receive significantly more funding when the schools reach the same size.

6.2 Minimum Funding Guarantee

Under the school funding arrangements if there is a reduction in the total place funding per pupil of more than 1.5% special schools are protected to 98.5% of the previous year's unit value. Depending on the actual place changes which are determined it is possible that some special schools funding per place will reduce by more than 1.5% as a result of the change in the lump sum element of the funding. To avoid the scenario described above the Forum is asked to support an application for an MFG exception for any schools where the operation of the funding formula reduces their total funding per place by more than 1.5%.

7 Conclusion

7.1 An update on the 2019-20 budget will be provided at the November Forum meeting. It will also take account of any further government funding announcements.

7.2 Forum is asked to agree the recommendations in section 3 of this paper.

MINUTES
School Forum High Needs Funding Sub-group Meeting
Monday 10 September 2018
14.30-16.30
Mimram Bar, County Hall

Present: Jennie Newman (JN), Simon Newland (SN), Jonathan Burberry (JB),
Richard Haynes (RH), Tony Fitzpatrick (TF), Jan Liversage (JL), Sara Lalis
(SL)
Apologies: Karen James, Yvonne Medlam, Jeanne Edwards, Lara Mathie, Lucy
Godshaw

Item	Action
Matters Arising are included in appropriate agenda items	
<p>1 <u>Budget update and issues</u></p> <p>a) Budget 2019-20</p> <p>JB presented the initial high needs budget for 2019-20, pressures and savings identified are included in the report on overall School Budget Strategy which will be discussed at the Schools Forum on 18th September.</p> <p>The high needs block for 2019-20 is estimated to be £111.1m an increase of £3.3m from 2018-19.</p> <p>b) Post 16 places – Any requests to increase places in 2019 will be brought to the November meeting.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JN to follow up with Patricia Walker <p>c) ESMA Review – Karen Noble (Performance Improvement Manager) is leading on this review and will be putting together a project brief. Questions have been raised in relation to the Forest House provision. JB advised that the DfE will shortly be publishing their consultation on hospital education and this may need to link in with this review.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB to meet with Karen to provide some background to Forest House provision • TF to follow up with Karen regarding the issues that were raised by HASSH through the previous review and any future involvement. • JN will make Lindsay Edwards aware of today's discussion. <p>d) EY Support Project – following investigation by JB, it was established that this project no longer exists.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YM to remove £52k from the budget line 	<p>Jennie Newman</p> <p>Jonathan Burberry</p> <p>Tony Fitzpatrick</p> <p>Jennie Newman</p> <p>Yvonne Medlam</p>

Item	Action
<p>e) DSPL Special School budget – £200k budget of which £153k has been committed this year. Items of expenditure include transition support workers at colleges and autism related training/accreditation for special schools</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sally Glossop to be asked to provide an evaluation of impact of this budget and special schools to be asked for their input. 	<p>Jennie Newman</p>
<p>f) Counselling in Schools – There was a further discussion about the concerns raised at the last meeting about whether this service should be supported from the HN budget. It was agreed to carry out a review of the counselling service and to consider value for money data.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JN to talk to Lindsay Edwards to determine who should carry out the review. JB to confirm the gross budget 	<p>Jennie Newman</p> <p>Jonathan Burberry</p>
<p>g) Physical & Sensory Impairment Team (£2m) -_As this budget is large compared to other support services budgets need see what the budget covers</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out a review of this budget 	<p>Jennie Newman</p>
<p>h) SEND Support Services (£450k)- a report to be taken to SEND exec with detailed breakdown of this project</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JN to ask David Canning to prepare a report 	<p>Jennie Newman</p>
<p>i) Inflation Process</p> <p>There was a discussion about what cost pressures to include in HN budget. 2 options are to be presented to next meeting in November</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted inflation to specific budgets To only fund pay inflation - approximately 80% of the budget <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YM to model both options 	<p>Yvonne Medlam</p>
<p>j) Future Budgets</p> <p>It was suggested that it would be helpful to provide budget projections for 2020-21 to inform better decision making.</p> <p>It was reported that Roman Fields may change designation to a complex needs school on 2 sites. Need to consider the cost implications for the 2020-21 budgets. There will be no effect on 2019-20 budgets.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 2 scenarios for increases in grant for 2020-21. An optimistic one at 3% and a pessimistic one at 1% Model budget for both scenarios 	<p>Yvonne Medlam</p>

Item		Action
<p>2</p>	<p><u>Special School and base place update</u></p> <p>A paper was presented showing a potential net increase of 89 places in special schools from September 2019. There is expected to be an additional increase of 12 day places at Larwood school from April 2019 as a result of the closure of the residential provision there. A proposed reduction of places in special units was supported by the High Needs Group assuming any reduction is permissible under statutory processes.</p> <p>The proposed funded places for 2019-20 will be discussed at the Special School funding & Places Task Group on 4th October to agree the approach to the proposed funded places.</p> <p>These proposals will be brought to the High Needs group in November.</p> <p>A return is required to be submitted to the EFA for any changes in funded places numbers in special schools, units & bases and FE colleges by mid-November. As the date of submission is before the next Schools Forum the Forum will be asked to delegate the decision regarding any changes to the High Needs Funding Sub-group.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise funded numbers in special schools and special units • Report to Schools Forum to agree delegated the decision to approve high needs place changes • Submission of High Needs places return of agreed places changes and to include 12 at Larwood • YM to clarify with School Planning team if there are any circumstances where a statutory process would be required for a reduction in places at bases. 	<p>Jeanne Edwards</p> <p>Yvonne Medlam</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><u>Capital Process</u></p> <p>JN explained the process and criteria required for schools who wish to apply for the SEND Capital Grant.</p> <p>The submission date for initial expressions of interest is 28th September 2018. These will be considered by the capital funding panel and then full proposals will be invited from those that best meet the aims of the Strategy.</p> <p>Agreed that Pauline Davies would chair the panel.</p> <p>The first trench of the capital grant for 2018-19 has been paid</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send guidance and application form to schools and ESCs 	<p>Jennie Newman</p>

Item		Action
4	<p><u>SEND Development Fund (SDF)</u></p> <p>This is the balance of resources available the level of which will be calculated once all known pressures and savings are identified. It should be noted that there will usually be a lag between the budget being identified and the budget being spent. To outline the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget is identified in year 1 • Priorities are discussed and then identified • Projects are agreed and budgeted for in year 2 <p>Priorities identified for Development Fund:</p> <p>2018-19 money to be used in 2019-20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the ENF budget by a minimum of £500k to address additional pressures • ESCs - look at funding for split sites and to review the current formula, DESC reported that children not in school or moving into the county are not always being included in the data. This may result in additional funding. <p>2019-20 money to be used in 2020-21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years • Complex needs banding review • Support for children with anxiety and mental health, eg tier 2 preventative work and to fund a mental health worker in each DSPL area <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess additional pressure in budget • Behaviour workstream to look at funding for ESCs • To provide details and costs of 2019-20 initiatives • Provide a narrative for Jenny Coles 	<p>Richard Haynes Tony Fitzpatrick Jennie Newman Richard Haynes/ Yvonne Medlam</p>
5.	<p><u>SpLD budget implications</u></p> <p>A saving of £775k as a result of the introduction of the new SpLD provision has been included in the budget for 2019-20</p>	
6.	<p><u>Exceptional Needs Funding</u></p> <p>It was reported that there are additional pressures on the ENF budget with increases in complexity and the authority not meeting the needs of all the children and young people. ENF will be looked at under the SEND transformation .JN highlighted the need to ensure there is a good understanding of the ENF process.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Howard Bull to provide information to be able to understand the increased pressures and report back to the November meeting • Include a minimum of £500k in the 2019-20 budget – see SDF 	<p>Richard Haynes Yvonne Medlam</p>

Item		Action
7	<p><u>Counselling- way forward</u></p> <p>This was discussed as part of the budget item – refer to item 1</p>	
8	<p><u>VI Project</u></p> <p>It was proposed to look at this budget which was set up to provide a teaching assistant team to help braille users. It appears that the funding is used for the purpose it was set up for and is putting pressure on the ENF budget</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out a short term review to be completed by end of autumn term. Update report for November meeting. 	<p>RH, TF, David Canning, Emma Dudley</p>
9	<p><u>Inflation Proposal for 2019-20</u></p> <p>This was discussed as part of the budget item – refer to item 1</p>	
	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Items to take to Schools Forum on 18th September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective Home Education • SEND Strategy • Out of county Analysis • Update High Needs budget 	
	<p>Date of next meeting Tuesday 13th November 2018 12.00-14.00 Room NB2.4, County Hall</p>	