

MINUTES
School Forum High Needs Funding Sub-group Meeting
Thursday 5 September 2018
10.00-12.00am
Mimram Room, County Hall

Present: Jennie Newman (JN), Simon Newland (SN), Jonathan Burberry (JB), Tony Fitzpatrick (TF), Jan Liversage (JL), Sara Lalis (SL) Yvonne Medlam (YM), Sally Glossop, Jo Fisher (JF), Doris Mutege (DM), Lucy Godshaw (LG), Patricia Walker (PW)

Apologies Richard Haynes, Gemma Williamson

Item	Action																				
<div>1</div> <div>Matters Arising EHE Research Project – JN to follow up with Richard Woodard to find out when the outcomes report from the EHE Research Project is expected to be published.</div>	JN																				
<div>2</div> <div><u>2019-20 Budget Position</u> JB presented the High Needs Budget monitor report as at July 2019. A projected overspend of £2.129m is forecast and is mainly due to the following: <table><tr><td></td><td>£'000</td></tr><tr><td>Special School Top-up funding</td><td>600</td></tr><tr><td>Independent Placements</td><td>3,359</td></tr><tr><td>SEN Strategy Development Fund</td><td>(6,186)</td></tr><tr><td>Exceptional Needs</td><td>1,841</td></tr><tr><td>Out of County Top-ups</td><td>1,893</td></tr><tr><td>Additional Welfare & Tuition</td><td>441</td></tr><tr><td>High Needs Capital</td><td>500</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>(319)</td></tr><tr><td></td><td><hr/>2,129</td></tr></table> Explanations of these over/(underspends) are set out in Appendix 1 SN expressed concern regarding the overspends as to why they weren't predicted. JN reported that the system is very rigorous but tribunals are increasing and more appeals are being lost because we cannot meet needs locally. There is an increase in exclusions and part time courses and a knock on effect in AWT, P16 and home education. JN reported that there were many challenging families moving into Herts who are putting pressure on provision. Need to quantify demand for next year's Budget. Information held in admissions. Commissioning are putting together a business case around children being placed in out of county residential placements and what local solutions could look like. Action<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide information on numbers coming from out county to forecast Independent & Out County placements by early November</div>		£'000	Special School Top-up funding	600	Independent Placements	3,359	SEN Strategy Development Fund	(6,186)	Exceptional Needs	1,841	Out of County Top-ups	1,893	Additional Welfare & Tuition	441	High Needs Capital	500	Other	(319)		<hr/> 2,129	<div>SG/RW/ TF</div>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Deborah Roberts (Admissions) for numbers coming from out county • Continue work on local solutions to prevent out county placements building on Helen Redding's data analysis for Long Term strategy. 	SN PW
3	<p><u>Special School places update</u></p> <p>A paper was presented showing a potential net increase of 119 places in special schools from September 2020.</p> <p>The proposed funded places for 20-21 to be discussed at a Special School funding & Places Task Group (TBA).</p> <p>These proposals then to be taken to the sector group meetings to agree numbers. Above process to ratify the places to be complete by October 15th.</p> <p>Discussion took place about whether places can be commissioned above capacity. JN said this was possible but only if schools agreed</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 ESFA 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"> • Set up a Special School funding & Places Task Group asap • Finalise funded numbers in special schools and special units by <u>October 15th</u> • Report to Schools Forum to agree to delegate the decision to approve high needs place changes • Submission of High Needs places return of agreed places changes 	JN SG SG/YM YM
4	<p><u>Post 16 High Needs Funded Places in FE Colleges 2020/21</u></p> <p>SG presented a report outlining budget pressures for Post 16 College and ISP provision for 2019/20 and 2020/21. The report proposed an increase of 150 funded places in FE colleges at a cost of just under £919k from September 2020.</p> <p>Concerns were raised as to why there is such a significant increase in Post 16 places above what is happening in special schools. LG gave a brief overview of the issues faces by colleges over the last year.</p> <p>In the future, the Post16 process in terms of funding will be aligned with the Pre 16 process in special places and ENF. Post 16 will be included in the Banding Descriptors review.</p> <p>The HN sub- group did not agree to the increase of 150 additional places and wanted it reviewed.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW to go back to the colleges to challenge the proposed numbers.. • PW to provide the revised number of places and the cost of these pressures by <u>15th October</u> 	PW PW

5 3yr Budget Forecast 2020-21 to 2022-23

YM provided the Indicative High Needs Budget Position for 2020-21 to 2022-23 as shown in the table below. The high needs block for 2020-21 is estimated to be £129m, an increase of £14m from 2019-20. (This increase equates to 2% of the national high needs budget increase of £700m).

The budget forecast indicates that there will be headroom of £2.281m in 2020-21 but a shortfall in the following two years of £5.4m and £12m (this however does not allow for any increase in the DSG for future years).

It was agreed that the high needs pressures would be included in the Schools Budget strategy report to the schools forum. Details of these pressures can be found in this report.

HIGH NEEDS BUDGET	£m
2019-20 Budget (as previously notified)	114.677
plus net increase in imports and exports	0.339
Final HN Budget Allocation 2019-20	115.016
Estimated Herts share of £700m announced for HN	14.000
Indicative Budget for 2020-21 and following 2 years	129.016

BUDGET PRESSURES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	£m	£m	£m
Indicative HN Budget Allocation (HN Block)	129.016	129.016	129.016
Predicted budgeted spend previous yr	110.832	126.735	134.469
Plus pressures:			
FYE of previous years	0.917	1.825	0.417
Special School Funded Places (119 in 20/21 and 50 in 21/22 & 22/23)	0.694	0.292	0.292
Special School top ups (incl £600k overspend in 2019-20)	1.294	0.292	0.292
Independent Placements (2019-20 overspend)	1.900	1.000	1.000
Increase DSG contribution to CLA costs	1.500		
AWT (2019-20 overspend)	0.441		
proposed 48 places in units from sept 20	0.523		
Complex Needs in Mainstream (ENF) (2019-20 overspend)	1.840		
P16 Funded Places (150 places with 35 additional top ups)	0.919		
Base adjustment for Barnfield College	0.644		
Out county maintained school top ups (2019-20 overspend)	1.900		
Budget Pressures	12.573	3.408	2.000
cost pressures - 3% in 20/21 and 3.5% in 21/22 & 22/23	3.331	4.325	4.547
Total estimated funding required	126.735	134.469	141.015
Headroom/ (shortfall) in Budget	2.281	(5.453)	(11.999)

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	<table border="1" data-bbox="204 203 1310 495"> <tr> <td>Plans for SDF made in 2019-20</td><td></td><td>£m</td></tr> <tr> <td>Early Years</td><td></td><td>0.500</td></tr> <tr> <td>High Needs Banding Review</td><td rowspan="2">}</td><td rowspan="2">2.000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Complex Needs Mainstream Schools inc ENF</td></tr> <tr> <td>SLCN Bases</td><td></td><td>0.400</td></tr> <tr> <td>Support for children with anxiety and mental health</td><td></td><td>0.500</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>3.400</td></tr> </table> <p>The Strategy Development Fund for 2019-20 was set at £3.4m (excluding one off use of carry forward) Budget position suggests that only £2m will be available in 2020-21.</p> <p>The 2019-20 plans were reviewed and it was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years funding was no longer required • SLCN bases included in 2020-21 budget pressures • Support for mental health to be linked to CAMHS in transformation and to potentially fund from DSPL budgets • SDF to continue to support the high Needs Banding Review and complex needs in mainstream. <p>Action Update budget position with latest information for November High needs sub-group and Schools Forum</p>	Plans for SDF made in 2019-20		£m	Early Years		0.500	High Needs Banding Review	}	2.000	Complex Needs Mainstream Schools inc ENF	SLCN Bases		0.400	Support for children with anxiety and mental health		0.500			3.400	YM
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6.	<p><u>Update HN banding review and complex needs in mainstream (ENF)</u></p> <p>TF reported that work is ongoing with banding review and ENF. Research is showing that there is not enough money going into mainstream to support complex needs regardless of the system and shows that Hertfordshire puts less into mainstream high needs than other LAs (eg Northants fund 22% of HN block into ENF whereas HCC put in 7%).</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TF to estimate the impact of a system change in ENF 	TF																			
7.	<p><u>Update Support for children with anxiety and mental health</u></p> <p>Covered under budget item above.</p>																				
	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JF and JN raised issues around children with EHCPs that have been turned down for ENF. Following discussion it was agreed that when a child is in receipt of funding at primary, this would continue at transition into secondary for two terms and then be reviewed. • Bushey Meads PNI – no further update - waiting for a report from Helen Redding 																				
	<p>Date of next meeting Tuesday 12 November 12.30-14.30 Chairman's Dining Room, County Hall</p>																				