

MINUTES
Schools Forum High Needs Funding Sub-group Meeting
Thursday 9 January 2020
11.00-13.00
Mimram Room, County Hall

Present: Jennie Newman (JN) - Chair, Simon Newland (SN), Tony Fitzpatrick (TF), Yvonne Medlam (YM), Jo Fisher (JF), Jan Liversage (JL) Lucy Godshaw (LG), Gemma Williamson (GW), Nick Rowlands (NR) Sally Glossop (SG), Doris Mutege (DM), Faisal Mir (FM), Jonathan Burberry (JB), Richard Haynes (RH), Rachael Adler (RA), Emelie Frampton (EF) - minutes

Apologies Geraint Edwards (GE)

Item	Action
<p>1. Previous minutes</p> <p>Special School Funded Places</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SG to have a conversation with all schools with units who are currently being funded for empty places and discussion shared by 20.01. <p>Post 16 High Needs Funded Places</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JN to share provision data from JL to SN. JL to collect provision data from all special schools, which is to be shared at next meeting and discuss financial implications. <p>DSG contribution to the costs of residential places for CLA with SEND</p> <p>Specific meeting has been arranged between Jenny Coles SN, Jo Fisher and the chairs of the associations to discuss concerns raised by group in relation to the impact of £1.5m on the 2020-21 and future year's budgets. The meeting would primarily cover HLN budget strategy. RH, TF and JL to be invited.</p> <p>Specialist Resource Provision (SRP)</p> <p>RH met with planning team and it was concluded no SRPs will be in place until September 2021. Budget provision would be adjusted downwards in April. Longer term cost likely to be higher than estimated.</p> <p>SAS Budget from 2020/21</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JN to arrange for RA, TF, Herbs to share details of SAS budget and what is invested in each specific service. 	<p>SG</p> <p>JN JL</p> <p>RA/TF</p>
2. Complex Needs in Mainstream Schools	

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	<p>TF gave an update on the review of meeting complex needs in mainstream schools. The review is working on the assumption that we would move to a banded system based on EHCPs and retain an element of funding for children that don't have EHCPs. We would maintain current support for the children that already have funding via the current ENF system and assess the 1,600 children that don't have funding and whether they are eligible for funding through the new system..</p> <p>Currently work is underway creating a banding tool and the level banding rates. It is planned to implement the new system from the 1st April 2020. There will be a transitional period where current children with ENF/EHCP will be rolled over and continue to be funded at current levels.</p> <p>The review is going to School's Forum on 15.01 and SEND Strategic Leadership Group on 20.01. Schools to receive 21.01.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TF to share results of meeting from Southend/Essex who have developed a similar system which is working well. 	TF																					
3	<p>Budget summary 2020-21 to 2022-23</p> <p>YM provided the Indicative High Needs Budget Position for 2020-21 to 2022-23 as shown in the table below. As a result of the December funding settlement the high needs block for 2020-21 is estimated to be £131.5m, an increase of £600k above the figures provided at the November meeting. This will be revised later in the year when the import/export adjustment is known.</p> <p>An increase of 4% in funding has been included in each of two following years in line with current estimates for future increases in the DSG.</p> <p>The budget forecast indicates that there will headroom of £2m in 2020-21 and a deficit in the following two years of £0.2m and £1.8m.</p> <p>£750k in P16 budget previously identified as a risk has been reduced to £660k but is now included in the budget. £480k for further in year increases to HN places.</p> <p>The increase of £2.7m in the budget for ENF is the estimated overspend in 2019/20 of £1.8m and growth of £ 0.9m; it does not include any funding for the implementation of the new system of funding complex needs in mainstream schools at this stage.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="204 1585 1437 2063"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Indicative High Needs Budget Position for 2020-21</th></tr> <tr> <th></th><th>£m</th><th></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-20 Budget (as previously notified)</td><td>114.677</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>plus net increase in imports and exports</td><td>0.339</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Final HN Budget Allocation 2019-20</td><td>115.016</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Increase in DSG for 2020-21 (December settlement)</td><td>16.463</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Indicative Budget for 2020-21</td><td>131.479</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Indicative High Needs Budget Position for 2020-21				£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		Increase in DSG for 2020-21 (December settlement)	16.463		Indicative Budget for 2020-21	131.479		
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		1.04	1.04
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	£m	£m	£m
Indicative HN Budget Allocation (HN Block)	131.479	136.738	142.208
Predicted budgeted spend previous yr	110.832	129.547	136.922
<u>Plus pressures:</u>			
FYE of previous years plus adjs	1.053	1.017	0.675
Special School Funded Places (71 in 20/21 and 50 in 21/22 & 22/23)	0.421	0.292	0.292
Special School top ups & additional £10ks	1.338	0.303	0.306
Independent Placements (2019-20 overspend)	1.900	1.000	1.000
Increase DSG contribution to CLA costs	1.500		
AWT	1.278	0.220	0.000
SRPs	0.467	0.333	
reduction in unit places - flamstead end	(0.021)	(0.015)	
Complex Needs in Mainstream (ENF) new system	2.700		
P16 Funded Places to be confirmed plus addition costs for HN in college provision	1.981	0.500	0.500
Base adjustment for Barnfield College	0.644		
Outreach	0.095		
Out county maintained school top ups	2.357	0.508	0.963
Budget Pressures	15.713	4.159	3.736
cost pressures - inflation @ 3% in 20/21	3.002	3.217	3.390
total estimated funding required	129.547	136.922	144.048
SDF			
Total Budget Required	129.547	136.922	144.048
Headroom/ (shortfall) in Budget	1.932	(0.184)	(1.840)
When allowing for additional costs for independent placements in out county schools and funding for the complex needs in mainstream school's review, the shortfall in funding for the			

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	<p>three years is £3m, £7.2m and £8.8m respectively. This is discussed in the next item on the budget strategy.</p> <p>Group raised concerns over where we could make savings to complex needs review. This will be discussed under next item (Budget Strategy).</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA/SG to collect data of students who are on reduced timetables. • YM to move SRPs from budget so that they are factored into next year's budget (to be done in April). 	<p>RA/SG YM</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Budget Strategy</p> <p>SN presented a draft report on a proposed approach to a High Level Needs Budget Strategy for 2020-21 to 2022-23. A final version would go to School Forum next week.</p> <p>There was considerable discussion as to whether it was necessary to agree in February the levels of funding that would be attached to each of the proposed bands. Heads representatives felt strongly that this would be necessary. However, it was also clear that it would be problematic to bring forward a new system of funding when the financial costs and hence affordability was unclear.</p> <p>As regards the coming financial year, it seems that the most appropriate approach would be to set indicative banding levels, and seek if at all possible to hold to them; but a final decision would need to be made in early May as to whether this would be possible within existing budgets; and if not whether any excess costs would be met from DSG carry-forwards/reserves.</p> <p>In relation to future years, it was clear that savings would probably need to be identified in current HLN budgets, if the new system was to be rolled out as envisaged. SN proposed a budget review process to run through to next Autumn whereby each budget area will be looked at.</p> <p>The transfer of additional placement costs for CLA to be met from DSG was discussed, and a number of additional requests for additions to the draft Forum report were made by RH.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to be redrafted to take account of comments made, for submission to Schools Forum. 	<p>SN</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Review reference group</p> <p>SN noted that we would want to discuss the budget/service changes that might flow from the proposed approach above informally with Heads representatives. The meeting with Chairs of Associations was a suitable opportunity to discuss how best to do this.</p>	

Item		Action
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>Budget for Special Schools staff training and retention</p> <p>JL tabled a summary on the £250k that was spent on this MA programme in previous years. Those supported by the programme are largely still working within Hertfordshire, continuing to raise standards and sustain staff in those positions. Not a possibility to repeat in exactly the same form, but JL proposed funding one place per special school for one year, and the Special School to fund the second year.</p> <p>RH proposed a review of the historic budget to determine if it is still needed and what we want from it.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SG/JL to bring evidence to next HLN meeting on the 13.02 so discussions can be had to determine where this fits into the budget. 	<p>TF/JL SG/JL</p>
	<p>Next meeting Thursday 13th February 2020 9:30-11:30 Mimram Bar, County Hall</p> <p>Noted that it was not reasonable to request Head Teachers to give up substantial time to attend meetings, and not minimise the time taken by providing parking. Since this was not really practicable at County Hall, we needed to move the meeting to a different location.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emelie to rearrange meeting to different location and send updated location to all. 	