

School Funding Working Group & Special Educational Needs Working Group Meeting

9th June 2017, 8:30am

Wilton Room – County Hall

MINUTES

Present: Liz Williams, Susan Tanner, Martin Watson, Debbie Bennett, Isabel Blackburn (observer), John Hawkins, Neil Baker, Catriona Williamson, Phil Cook, Judith Westcott (for item 3)

Apologies: Simon White, Grant Davis

1	<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous joint meeting of the working groups were reviewed.</p> <p>EW confirmed that the responses to the funding consultations had been submitted following agreement at Schools Forum in March.</p>	
2	<p>Provisional Out-turn 2016-17</p> <p>EW circulated provisional outturn figures for 2016-17. The report showed an underspend of £30,000 for the year, an improvement on the previous position reported to Schools Forum in March. The main area of improvement was expenditure on top ups for post-16 students.</p> <p>NB requested an update on the expenditure on education for looked after children to be included in the report to Schools Forum, to include an update on PPG Plus. It was also agreed that Chris Whitfield would be invited to the October Schools Forum to discuss the budgets allocated to the virtual school.</p> <p>MW requested that a summary of high needs place recoupment be provided in the outturn report to Schools Forum.</p>	<p>EW</p> <p>GD</p>
3	<p>High Needs Update</p> <p><i>SEMH Centres of Excellence</i></p> <p>ST presented a paper updating on progress in the development of SEMH Centres of Excellence. A number of expressions of interest had been received from schools and also a number of concerns raised by schools who may have considered becoming involved. The EOIs received did not give the geographical spread of centres that had initially been hoped for.</p> <p>ST proposed that approval be given for one Centre of Excellence to be established in the west of the County and then sought views on alternative options. The view of members of the group was that use of</p>	

	<p>the funding to build on existing models of provision, for example nurture centres, would not achieve the initial aims of the funding allocation. There was also concern that any models funded needed to be sustainable going forwards.</p> <p>The proposal of the group was that approval be given to one application from the west Wiltshire area to start from September and that work continued to seek interested schools in other areas of Wiltshire whilst the model was being piloted in the successful centre. It was proposed that the funding continued to be ringfenced for this purpose to support subsequent schools setting up at a later date.</p> <p>Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Guidance</p> <p>JW updated on the work carried out with SENCOs and Education Officers to review the ELP guidance. A paper would be brought Schools Forum to approve the revised guidance so that work could then be carried out to understand the financial impact from 2018-19.</p> <p>DB noted that the guidance needed to be rolled out alongside training for schools and governors to put in to context with the overall high needs funding picture in schools.</p> <p>Wiltshire Special Schools</p> <p>ST updated the group on the work that had been carried out with Special Schools to look at models of future provision. A report has been produced and the recommendations still needed to be worked through by the schools and the LA</p> <p>SEN Capital Allocation</p> <p>EW provided an update on the recent government announcement of capital allocations to support SEND developments from April 2018. Wiltshire will receive an allocation of £0.800 million over 3 years (£0.267m per annum) from the financial year 2018-19. In accordance with the guidance, a consultation process would be put in place to consider how the allocation would be spent.</p>	ST
4	<p>Procurement of Licences for Schools Management Information System</p> <p>The Working Groups considered a brief update paper from GD on the procurement of licences for schools management information system. It was noted that a number of LAs are now accessing a framework agreement put in place by North Yorkshire and that this was being investigated as a potential way forward for Wiltshire schools.</p>	
5	<p>AOB</p> <p>The group thanked Martin Watson for his contribution to the work of Schools Forum as this was his last meeting.</p>	

6	Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19 th September, 8:30am The meeting will again be a joint meeting of the Schools Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group	
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