

# Agenda Item

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

June 2017

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## **Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Centres of Excellence**

### **Purpose of report**

1. At the meeting of Schools Forum on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Schools Forum agree the proposal Creation of specialist resource base provision (in-reach and out-reach) for SEMH KS1 &KS2 - £600k
2. This paper serves to update Schools Forum on progress toward delivering this proposal.

### **Background**

3. A project team was established and the needs, aims, and the shape of the provision was set out based on evidenced based researched practice.
4. Primary School Heads and Governors were invited to an informal meeting which acted as both an opportunity for consultation and information gathering. The group were also able to shape the criteria and areas of information that a school might need to give to engage in the project. This was followed by an invitation to all primary school to send in an expression of interest to develop a Centre of Excellence.
5. Five expressions of interest were received, three from West, two from East Wiltshire Schools. No EOI from south or north schools. There was a scoring system agreed with the Heads who attended the consultation meeting to review the submitted expressions. All the Expressions of Interest were positive proposals which created new insights into how the project could be developed.

### **6. Key proposals**

The project was discussed with members of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group, with a number of suggestions for the way forward. The combined working group recommended that the project group should:

- Retain the original commitment to three geographically dispersed centres.
- Accept the proposal from the Mead Academy as the one which best fit the needs in the west and as a forerunner project to the development of a further two centres in the south/east and the north.

- Immediately take forward the west project and consult and work with schools in the north and east/south to bring on line two further project in the coming year.
- Ask the schools who submitted expressions of interest to join the steering group for the project to:
  - Support the development of the Centres of Excellence
  - Explore the options for developing support to nurture based provision and other models of emotional social provision across the County.
- That the funding identified continued to be ringfenced for the three centres of excellence to support subsequent schools setting up at a later date.

7. Schools Forum are asked to note this update.

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