


School Funding Working Group and SEN working Group

8th January 2019

Minutes

Present: Marie Taylor, Grant Davis, Judith Westcott, Neil Baker, Lisa Percy, Nick Breakwell, Sam Churchill, John Hawkins, Phil Cook, Helean Hughes

Apologies: Catriona Williamson

1	<p><i>Minutes from previous meeting</i></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.</p> <p>Judith fed back that SEN and other vulnerable group updates would be shared regularly with PHF as requested and this has already started with Helean & Judith attendance at the last PHF.</p> <p>Marie fed back that the social worker pilot at JoG two years ago was in fact ceased as it was found that the need was below CiN.</p> <p>Helean offered to look into where there were any plans for a named social worker to link to a cluster of schools</p> <p>Lisa requested a copy of the EHCP by age table shared at the December Schools Forum – Grant to forward and embedded, below.</p> <p> Power Point - numbers of statement</p> <p>There were no matters arising that had not already been considered by Schools Forum at the December 2018 meeting.</p>	HH GD
2	<p>Admissions Update</p> <p>Debbie Clare attended to present this item. No requests for additional funding at this time however the ability to provide the in year service with it's safeguarding reassurances would need to be examined moving forward.</p> <p>The group felt the centralised service was their preferred option and that financial support from Safeguarding should be sought.</p>	
3	<p><i>Budget Monitoring Reports – Schools Funding & Early Years</i></p> <p>Marie circulated a budget monitoring report giving the projected outturn as at period 9 (31 December 2018). The report showed a projected overspend for high needs budgets of £3.331 million, offset to an overall overspend of £2.307m by underspends in central schools and early years block expenditure.</p> <p>The main reason for the downward movement is the allocation from the Secretary of State's additional funding of £1.128m in 2018/19.</p> <p>The Early Years separate report had been prepared for the Early Years Reference Group which meets on the 11th January – the proposal of the report is to action a mid year budget movement where by the Early Years Inclusion Support Fund be fully funded from the Early Years Block. This will not have an overall impact on the total budget but will better match funding with activity.</p>	

	The group noted the report and supported the budget transfer.	
4	<p>Verbal Update – High Needs Working Group</p> <p>Helean updated the group on the progress made since the initial round of meetings including; New consultancy expertise being brought in Commissioning being centralised in Childrens Services Head Briefings running over the next fortnight with schools – the group felt these were key, the message to a wider audience and collecting views.</p>	
5	<p>Budget Setting Suite of Reports – Funding Schools / Growth Fund/ Early Years / High Needs and Central Schools Block</p> <p>Grant and Marie presented the various reports.</p> <p>The high level modelling was complete and proposals put forward on the central block, early years and high needs block including proposals around the transfer of schools funding to high needs block.</p> <p>The school level modelling would be completed by Schools Forum and at this stage the decision matrix will be published to summarise all necessary decisions at the Schools Forum meeting.</p> <p>The group agreed that they would respond to the Secretary of State’s request to review the level of disapplication request with an unchanged percentage transfer because, although the additional funding was welcomed, it was insufficient to address the scale of the funding shortfall in Wiltshire. Marie to respond to the SoS request by the deadline of the 15th January.</p> <p>Neil asked what the School Improvement monitoring and brokering grant was being spent on. Helean had to leave the meeting briefly to attend Childrens Select Committee and so Marie said she would ensure Helean was prepared to answer that question at Schools Forum. The total allocation for 2018/19 is £515,436.</p> <p>The group discussed each report and the proposals, agreeing on principle with the basis of the proposals however, a further meeting of the group will be necessary prior to Schools Forum when the school level data will be available.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p>
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>The second part of the working group is to be held at 11am on 17th January 2019. Grant to book meeting.</p>	GD
8	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Next meeting to be held on March 18th – Wilton Room (2nd Floor) at County Hall, Trowbridge – <i>guests to be collected from reception</i>. Marie to book meeting.</p>	MT