

# High Needs Budget Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

**Present:** Helean Hughes (chair), Cate Mullen (notes), Alison Enever, Neil Baker, Vicky Dunncliffe (for item 2), Grant Davies, Lisa Percy, Stuart Hall, Sarah Garbutt, Lisa Fryer

**Apologies:** Marie Taylor

## 1. Actions from previous meeting

From 6<sup>th</sup> May; distributed following the meeting and shared via SF.

## 2. AP – information share and update (VD)

Vicky Dunncliffe shared slides and updates relating to AP. This was very well received with the group noting the tremendous progress that had been made in this area.



HNB AP  
Presentation.pptx

NB highlighted the challenges navigating Right Choice in order to find the approved provider list.

SH requested some input to WPCC.

**Action:** information to be shared as part of a HT briefing; emphasis upon the QA associated with the provider list

SG highlighted the availability and partnership elements need highlighting and celebrating in any information share. Echoed by LP.

**Action:** VD to put together a briefing to highlight the distance travelled

## 3. DfE HNB meeting: feedback from meeting on 14/6 (MT)

Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June. Very much an introductory meeting and opportunity to gather information from us. Confirmed ending of CSR period. SEND funding remains a significant issue. The management and recovery plan was shared with them at the meeting and detail shared about activity. A further meeting to be held in the autumn.

HH shared that the question was asked about when we anticipated seeing a balanced budget.

F40 group has also met with the DfE to discuss SEND funding – a couple of interesting comments noted as part of this meeting; more money sought from the treasury to support capital development but also money sought to 'pay off' the HNB deficits held by LAs.

#### **4. HNB plan: update on provision mapping work and HNB information sharing sessions with schools and stakeholders (CM/HH)**

Provision mapping- This needs to align with existing paperwork – Heads reported that SENCOs feel overloaded with paperwork e.g. AR and requests for assessment

The key message was ‘Keep it simple!’ Links to paperwork and processes needed to move between phases and use of drop downs

The introduction of the provision mapping needs to be done in a phased way rather than implementing all at once. This will help schools to adjust.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a diagrammatic way of sharing information and the associated stages, linked to legislation using phrases and legislation e.g. CoP

It was agreed that it is important to have a common language associated with this work and adopt a clear and concise description.

CM shared the timeline – keen to pull something together for early autumn for sharing with the group.

**Action:** CM to pull this together

OAP within a Resource Base is also required to assist with mainstream and other colleagues. This will be explored alongside the SLA.

HNB – The issues associated with this budget position would benefit from a whole LA view. HH and CM would like to run information sharing sessions in the autumn. These sessions will provide the context of the SEND strategy, the budget and invite further problem-solving.

Question as to the best format and way of doing this?

SG – suggested this be an addition to school budget information sharing

LP – suggested a headteachers briefing and session for SENCOs following this. This could be a regular item in the agenda

SG- need to change the conversation from ‘we can’t meet needs’ to how can we support? What can we do next? Need to link everything together

SH – sensitive approach required with families; focus upon need rather than diagnosis and exploring different ways to meet need, especially given some of the experiences that families have had

Discussion about how best to engage with families in this discussion – taking account of ISOS report findings etc but also reiterating the progress which is being made and having an honest and open conversation. Need to test things out with our schools and stakeholders and keeping the strategy ‘live’

SG – early information sharing re DSCs and learners much earlier will assist.

**Action:** Autumn term needs to be facilitated CM/HH/SH

#### **5. Banding benchmarking information and feedback (GD/MT)**

GD has commenced a piece of work relating to benchmarking across LAs, sharing information collated on a spreadsheet. This has not been a straightforward task as different areas and localities undertake this in different ways. Not easy to compare the costs associated with a particular need across different areas and models.

Examples shared are from across the SW region – some are using a banding model, similar to Wiltshire and others are using a matrix system and some are using an amalgamation of the two methodologies.

Discussed the need to make sure that our model is clear and reflected in all aspects of our assessment process from EHCNA onwards. Need to take account of complexity and interaction of areas of need etc

SH – strength of the current system is that it was co-produced with Wiltshire families. However, many families are not aware of the banding their young person receives. This can be important given its links to the Short Breaks programme

Discussed how movers in from other LAs are ‘transferred across’ – CM feel that this is reliant upon good quality information sharing between the LAs. NB reported that a challenge can be when provision doesn’t easily ‘map across’ between LAs eg provision of specialist services.

**Action:** GD to bring back further information relating to banding sums across different areas for comparison and further discussion

Discussion around how there can be clear links shown between all of the workstreams and areas of work which are underway

NB – this needs to be shown easily to groups such as SF to reassure about the activity underway in this area

LP – infographic would be preferable to a written report eg showing progress along in these areas

**Action:** further consideration to be given for this HH/CM/ALL

## **AOB**

HH- Extraordinary cabinet meeting to be held in a fortnights time to consider request for additional funding to support the work of the SEND&I service.

GD- January census data is now available. Headline information shared with the group relating to numbers of learners with EHCPs and pupils at SEND support. 23 Wiltshire schools have no learners with EHCPs, some are rural and some have small numbers (PAN).

Agreed that some triangulation from across services would be helpful.

**Action:** to be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration.