

# High Needs Block Working Group Meeting

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Present:** Helean Hughes (chair), Angela Everett (notes), Cate Mullen, Alison Enever, Marie Taylor, Grant Davies, Lisa Percy, Stuart Hall, Sarah Garbutt, Lisa Fryer, Lyssy Bolton, Mike Thomas.

**Apologies:** Charlotte Thomas

## 1. Welcome & introductions.

## 2. Actions from previous meeting.

From 7<sup>th</sup> July; distributed following the meeting and actions now updated.

### Discussion –

AP presentation, Vicky D has now left service, Teresa Mcilroy manager for this area of work.

**Action** - High Needs Plan to be updated in Autumn Term, plan for comms/progress HNB plan going out include Sue Ellison.

Benchmarking discussed/Dorset example, CM to look at broader picture

Cabinet report - SEN & Inclusion team resources agreed, recruitment plan in place .

## 3. Budget Update MT

Marie Taylor shared slides covering the following.

- Budget Monitoring HN Placements 31/8/21
- SEND & I Investment (incl commentary on regional staffing caseloads)
- High Needs NFF 22-23
- Benchmarking Update;

CM – explained benefits re SEND & Inclusion investment to support, managing requests, AR traffic, EP time & involvement in all EHCP's, managing stat deadlines, work is part of SEN2 DfE returns, Early intervention work.

LB – exciting news, well received, discussed purchasing EP's, more EP's, recruitment can be difficult, will take time to balance EP purchase/time and early intervention work.

SH- raised need for SENDSS advisory support, will the funding include this support? Different funding stream, this team funded through DSG, would need discussion, cabinet & DfE approval.

LB – acknowledged interface with SEND IWs/ team valuable, knowing schools/RB's, building relationships consistently add value, CM & AE acknowledged this is being progressed.

HH – HNF benchmarking discussed , Tim Brown/Gloucester good contact.

## **4&5 Provision Mapping**

Cheshire East LA highlighted as good provision map example, LO site also good example, CM has made contact to discuss with a view to using extracts, build into Wiltshire version. Cheshire request further meeting for discussion.

**Action**, CM to contact and feedback at next meeting.

## **Key updates (HNB recovery plan, Cabinet)**

School & teams settling back after summer, so no updates to report at this meeting, updates should be available for next meeting re LF work, and dyslexia friendly school plan.

**Action** – CM updates next meeting

## **AOB**

MT – any updates on LO site? Ongoing work, not up and running yet, there will be a standalone platform for user friendly information CM and SH on working group.

LB – highlighted need for consideration of SEMH AP, early intervention & AP acknowledged by group, addressed through FACT group, LB raised COMP funding with CSL.

HH – acknowledged this work is being picked up via FACT workstream, these are now regrouping, and early help is main thrust. Discussed the need for rep on SEND operational board to ensure this work is covered and importance acknowledged.

**Action** – SG to join the SEND operational board

AE – HELM sits across this area of work re earliest intervention, HELM meetings now taking place after summer break, children being referred in at earliest point, AE meeting with HV managers to discuss referral route, HV bringing cases to HELM.

LB – discussed call with DFE EYs consultative meeting raised the issue re EYS practitioners having greater concerns about ‘behaviour’ of pre-schoolers (and younger engagement in school. They were clearly interested. So might come back to me (us) for further discussion.

AE – happy to be involved re further discussion