

Report from the Schools Forum SEN Working Group

Purpose of report

1. To report on the joint meeting of the SEN Working Group and High Needs Formula Review Group, held on 26th February 2013.

Main considerations for School Forum

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. The SEN Group made the following recommendations:

4. *Review of Top Up Rates for 2014-15*

The Group requested that officers review the value of top-up rates for 2014-15 including a review of the costs of each type of provision and the relativities between top up rates for different bands and types of provision. It was agreed that a small working group would be required and that this would need to include representatives from schools.

5. *School Funding Reform – DfE review of School Funding Arrangements 2013-14*

The Group considered the DfE consultation document on funding arrangements for 2013-14 and made the following recommendations in relation to how Wiltshire should respond:

- Q19 – the difficulties in collecting accurate data from the annual census were discussed and it was agreed that this should be fed back as part of the response.
- Q20 – it was agreed that Wiltshire would support a move towards the £6,000 threshold for low cost high incidence SEN as this would increase consistency between local authority areas. It was noted that in the SW only 2 authorities had not implemented the recommendation to delegate the first £6,000 for SEN.
- Q21 – it was agreed that the DfE should play an active role in spreading good practice and model SLAs etc
- Q22 – in relation to post-16 funding streams the group requested that we note the need to work more closely with Adult Care services for students aged 18 and over. This will be made easier through the development of services for 0-25 year olds in line with the SEND Green Paper.

6. *Proposals*

That Schools Forum note the recommendations of the SEN Working Group.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director

Report author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance
01225 713675
Elizabeth.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk