

## Schools Forum SEN Working Group

10<sup>th</sup> June 2013, 9.00am, Canvey Room, East Wing, County Hall

### Minutes

**Present:** Liz Williams, Karina Kulawik, Martin Cooper, John Hawkins, Carol Grant, Rob Parsons, Debbie Bennett

**Apologies:** Phil Beaumont, Julia Cramp

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. The minutes had been considered at the last Schools Forum meeting in March.</p> <p><b>Pathfinder Update</b></p> <p>KK fed back that working groups have been set up to test the new single Education, Health &amp; Care Plan (My Plan) and to work on the Local Offer. Approximately 90 schools have volunteered to be involved.</p> <p><b>School Funding Reform Update 2013-14</b></p> <p>Top up funding for schools with &gt;3.5% pupils with statements to be calculated this month and funding allocated to schools.</p> <p>JH asked about support for Special Schools in financial difficulty following implementation of the new funding system. EW confirmed that no formal requests have been submitted for deficit budgets by Special Schools at this stage but that Schools Forum could consider a proposal to allocate some funding to support special schools where appropriate. This would be discussed further at the School Funding Working Group.</p> <p>EW updated the group on some of the key proposals in the new funding arrangements for 2014-15 in relation to high needs pupils. Key proposals included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The requirement for schools to meet the first £6,000 of provision for additional needs will be made mandatory – this will not require any change to the funding formula in Wiltshire</li><li>• No changes to be made to the place plus funding mechanism for high needs provision although Independent Special Schools will not move on to this system in 2014-15 as originally proposed</li><li>• It is likely that the minimum funding guarantee for top up values will remain in place in 2014-15 instead of being only for the first year. This may impact on any recommendations from the review of Resource Base provision</li></ul>	EW
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Top Up Payments for non-Wiltshire pupils</b></p> <p>EW presented a paper outlining previous arrangements for funding non-Wiltshire pupils in mainstream schools and the impact of the new funding arrangements. The key impact of the new arrangement is that it will now be difficult to fund non-Wiltshire pupils differentially, as per previous agreements, as schools are required to meet the first £6,000 additional needs for all pupils and other LAs will only be expecting to pay top up values in future.</p> <p>A number of options were presented to the working group for consideration:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Option A</i> – Wiltshire continues to operate a recoupment system and continues to fund the schools according to the previous agreement for existing non-Wiltshire pupils. This would mean schools will continue to be funded for the full value of a pupil’s statement but the financial risk of not being able to recoup the amount from the placing LA is left within the central High Needs budget. Total potential risk £144,145.</li> <li>• <i>Option B</i> – Wiltshire continues to operate a recoupment function and pays NPA top ups for all non-Wiltshire pupils on the same basis as Wiltshire pupils. The financial risk is then borne at individual school level.</li> <li>• <i>Option C</i> - Wiltshire continues to operate a recoupment function and pays NPA top ups for all non-Wiltshire pupils on the same basis as Wiltshire pupils but with 50% transitional funding (for one year only) to schools for whom the impact is greater than, for example, 1.5% of budget. Financial risk is shared between individual schools and the central High Needs budget.</li> <li>• <i>Option D</i> – <i>Wiltshire ceases to operate a recoupment function for non-Wiltshire pupils in mainstream provision and schools negotiate top up rates directly with the placing authority. Financial risk or benefit is borne at individual school level as is the task of invoicing the placing LA for the top up.</i></li> </ul> <p>After consideration of the options, <b>Option C</b>, moving to a consistent method of funding for all pupils with 1 year transitional support from the high needs block for schools where the impact is greater than 1% of budget, was recommended.</p>	
3	<p><b>Alternative Provision – funding for pupils with statements of SEN</b></p> <p>KK presented a summary of previous and current funding methods for supporting pupils with statements of SEN in Alternative Provision or at risk of permanent exclusion. Prior to the closure of the YPSS, pupils receiving provision from YPSS did not receive additional funding through named pupil allowances (NPAs) as they would have done in school. Under the new system secondary schools receive the devolved budget for alternative provision but if the pupil is in receipt of ELP or NPA funding this will also continue whilst they are on the roll of the school.</p> <p>CG noted that there was a particular issue in the south of Wiltshire as there was a lack of affordable provision for pupils with statements and that a wider discussion was required to look at the development of the market to ensure a range of provision could be developed. KK to attend the Wessex Federation meeting later in June to discuss further.</p>	KK
4	<p><b>Review of Top Up Payments in Mainstream School Resource Bases and ELP Provision</b></p> <p>KK outlined a proposed review of banding descriptors and funding values for Resource Base provision in mainstream schools. The aim of the project is to establish a continuum of banding descriptors for different levels of need across all resource base provision. A review of the banding values could then be based on agreed provision for each level of need.</p> <p>A working group has been set up and during the summer term a review of the banding descriptors would take place alongside financial</p>	

	<p>benchmarking work and a costing exercise to develop financial models for each type of provision.</p> <p>It was proposed that all schools with Resource Bases would be consulted on the outcomes of that work in September with final proposals to be brought to the SEN Working Group in late September prior to being considered by Schools Forum at the October meeting. It was agreed that the membership of the SEN Group would need to be broadened for the September meeting to ensure that schools with resource bases are represented on the group.</p> <p>KK also outlined work that is taking place to review the current ELP guidance. the work on the ELP guidance and the review of banding values for resource bases would inform a review of banding values for ELP. It was noted that the historical position had been that ELP values were on an equivalent level to Bands 4-5 in Special Schools and the banding values for Complex Needs Centres in resource bases.</p>	EW/KK
5	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELP Funding – KK updated the group on the discussions currently being held with secondary schools on ELP provision. KK and EW are attending federation meetings in each area in June.</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 9am, County Hall</p>	