

Schools Forum SEN Working Group

10th January 2014, 2.00pm, Salisbury Meeting Room, County Hall

Minutes

Present: Liz Williams, Karina Kulawik, Susan Tanner, Grant Davis, Chris Whitfield, Tracey Cornelius, Debbie Bennett, John Hawkins, Phil Beaumont

Apologies: Becky O'Brien, Carol Grant

1	<p><i>Minutes from Previous Meeting</i></p> <p>It was noted that KK had met with the Wessex Federation and that contact with Springfields had been facilitated to see if further outreach work could be accessed. This was now something for the Federation/schools to progress with Springfields.</p> <p>ST gave an update on the SEND Service and it was agreed that a structure chart would be sent out to schools now that the senior posts have been filled (Action for Nick Breakwell).</p>	Nick Breakwell										
2	<p><i>Top Up Values for Resource Bases and ELP 2014-15</i></p> <p>EW updated the Group on the discussions at the October Schools Forum meeting in relation to Resource Base and ELP top up values following the agreement of revised banding descriptors.</p> <p>Top up values for Resource Bases and ELP were proposed as follows:</p> <p>Resource Bases</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 1155 971 1263"><tr><td>Band 1</td><td>£10,823</td></tr><tr><td>Band 2</td><td>£5,881</td></tr><tr><td>Band 3</td><td>£2,920</td></tr></table> <p>ELP</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 1361 971 1433"><tr><td>ELP2</td><td>£5,881</td></tr><tr><td>ELP1</td><td>£2,920</td></tr></table> <p>These rates were anticipated to be affordable within current budget levels.</p> <p>EW notified the group of the work now taking place to identify and fund those post-16 pupils with high needs in school 6th forms as, in most cases, these places were not being funded by the EFA. CW queried how post-16 pupils with medical needs were funded and it was agreed that this needed to be followed up with the EFA.</p>	Band 1	£10,823	Band 2	£5,881	Band 3	£2,920	ELP2	£5,881	ELP1	£2,920	EW
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3	<p><i>Update on work with Special Schools re residential and day places</i></p> <p>EW explained that top up values for special schools for 2014-15 had yet to be finalised as work was under way to review the overall numbers of residential places and this would determine the affordability of continuing the increased 2013-14 rates through the following year.</p> <p>KK updated on the progress of the working group and explained that it</p>											

	<p>was difficult to identify a single solution for all schools because each school had different issues and circumstances. As a result of this individual discussions would need to take place with each of the 3 residential schools. PB and JH stressed the need for equity in this approach.</p> <p>PB raised the issue of Extended Day places and it was agreed that any work on extended day places needed to follow on from the work on residential places as there was no additional funding for this. The development of Extended Day places would need to include development of clear criteria for the determining of which pupils it would apply to and how it could be funded and was therefore a longer term piece of work.</p>	
4	<p>Planned Places 2014-15</p> <p>EW outlined the process for agreeing planned places with the EFA for 2014-15. All LAs had submitted their proposed numbers and this would inform the final funding settlement for the high needs block. Within Wiltshire place numbers for some Resource Bases would be reducing in line with the current strategy and a submission has been made to the EFA to retain this funding to support the new top up rates.</p> <p>It was also noted that Schools Forum had agreed that no minimum number for ELP would be funded in 2014-15.</p>	
5	<p>Hard to Place Pupils – Secondary Provision</p> <p>CW presented a paper outlining a proposal for additional funding of £0.400m for Hard To Place pupils to support the continuation of the SLA with secondary schools for excluded pupils. CW highlighted the increase in hard to place pupils coming from out of county during 2013-14 and the pressure this had caused schools in funding alternative provision placements. The issue of the number of Year 11 pupils coming in to schools was also highlighted.</p> <p>EW noted that no additional funding within the high needs block had yet been identified for this and therefore it was possible that if Schools Forum wanted to fund this proposal then one off funding from the DSG Reserve would need to be agreed. This might be affordable in 2014-15 however this was not a sustainable solution for a recurring cost pressure.</p> <p>The group discussed the proposal in some detail and agreed that the following points representing the views of the group needed to be included in the final paper to Schools Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the group generally supported the proposal to ensure that funding needed to be identified to enable appropriate provision to be made for this group of pupils; • That if funding is allocated to the Fair Access Panels as proposed there need to be robust criteria and moderation processes to ensure that panels are consistent and equitable in the allocation of the funding; • That any funding allocated for this purpose needed to be kept separate from the main devolved funding formula for alternative provision so it could be monitored and targeted appropriately; • That funding needs to be identified and that if funding could only be identified from one off reserves then work would need to take 	EW

	place during 2014-15 to identify a more sustainable funding model for 2015-16 onwards (and that this might include seeking support from the EFA to fund growth in hard to place pupils)	
5	AOB TC queried when schools piloting the MyPlan process would be meeting again. It was noted that in Chippenham a number of evening sessions were being organised with schools to take this further.	
6	Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 25 th February, 1.30pm, County Hall	