

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

15 October 2020

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – HIGH NEEDS WORKING GROUP

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools' Forum on the work of the High Needs Working Group to address budget pressures with the High Needs Budget.
2. The working group continues the strong solution focussed partnership approach and comprises local authority operational and finance officers, school leaders and the WPCC.

Main Considerations

3. As previously outlined, the HNB is under pressure and there is an urgent need to ensure that spending in future years matches the available budget.
4. ISOS was commissioned to lead a strategic review of the SEND provision to identify cost saving projects. This was presented to Schools' Forum in October 2019.
5. A new Inclusion and SEND Strategy was co-produced. This outlines the collective vision "All children and young people with SEND and their families will have a voice that is heard. They will know how to access, and be able to access the joined-up support they need to thrive in their communities, to enjoy life and reach their full potential"
6. The strategy has 6 priority areas:
 - Developing holistic plans with children/young people
 - Inclusion and removing exclusion in education
 - Inclusion and wellbeing in the community
 - Improving the range and quality of provision
 - Progress and attainment
 - Well planned transition
7. The Inclusion and SEND implementation plan (appendix 1) has been developed with partners to address the 6 priorities outlined above. The SEND Board monitor this plan.
8. To date, a number of actions have been taken to address the on-going demands on the budget; these are included in appendix 2.
9. A long-term 10-year High Needs Recovery Plan has been developed - appendix 3.

10. To specifically address the HNB overspend, a High Needs Recovery Plan has been developed (appendix 4). The High Needs Working Group meet bi-monthly to review the plan.

Proposals

11. For Schools' Forum to note the actions to date and proposals outlined in the appendices.

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