

Schools Forum SEN Working Group

Minutes – 21st September 2012

Present: Liz Williams, John Hawkins, Sarah O'Donnell, Karina Kulawik, Julia Cramp

Apologies: Phil Beaumont, Carol Grant, Phil Cooch, Mark Brotherton

		Action
1	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. It was noted that financial modelling of in year pupil movement had been carried out for 2 special schools and 2 resource bases to look at the impact on funding. The impact of pupil movement within a special school would be significant and we would need to look at ways of reflecting this in the top-up levels – for example through an occupancy factor</p>	
2	<p>YPSS Update</p> <p>The group received a verbal update on the current position in relation to the YPSS and Alternative Provision, a full report would be brought to Schools Forum on 4th October.</p> <p>JH commented that the list of alternative providers is very diverse and that some did not offer the full 25 hour curriculum. JC responded that the diverse range of providers was a positive step as it would enable more personalised packages to be put in place to support individual students.</p> <p>The group requested that the report to Schools Forum include some detail on the types of provision being put in place or commissioned by schools in the north and west of the County and how alternative provision is being monitored in terms of quality and the attendance of students.</p>	EW
3	<p>High Needs Pupils – Work Plan for School Funding Reform</p> <p>EW presented a report outlining the work still to be done in order to fully implement the funding reform changes in relation to provision for pupils with high needs. In Wiltshire this refers to pupils in Special Schools, Resource Bases and receiving ELP funding.</p> <p>The tasks in relation to the mainstream funding formula have been completed and it was agreed that the requirements to define financial provision in terms of the “local offer” as defined in the Green Paper on SEN & Disability would be picked up within the Disabled Children & Adults (DCA) Pathfinder Project for implementation by September 2014.</p> <p>KK fed back that the DfE had confirmed at a regional meeting that the place plus funding methodology would not be implemented for the independent sector in April 2013 as had previously been proposed.</p>	

	<p>The group agreed the proposed tasks and timescales with a clear message that the priority is to achieve a funding mechanism for implementation in April 2013 which may mean that some of the work on reviewing banding descriptors, etc may need to be delayed until the following financial year.</p> <p>The group agreed the recommendations that the formula review group for high needs pupils remain in place and that the membership be extended to include a member of the Children's Services Commissioning Team to provide expertise in relation to the independent sector provision and support on contracting arrangements</p>	
4	Date & Time of Next Meeting To be confirmed	

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