

Schools Forum SEN Working Group

16 January 2013, 2pm, Canvey Meeting Room, East Wing

Minutes

Present: Liz Williams (EW), Phil Cooch (PCO), Karina Kulawik (KK), Chris Whitfield (CW), Sarah Findlay-Cobb (SF), Debbie Bennett (DB), Phil Cook (PC), Phil Beaumont (PB), John Hawkins (JH)

Apologies: Michael Keeling, Mandy Cole, John Foster, Jan Ball, Hannah Knight, Carol Grant, Julia Cramp

This was a joint meeting of the Schools Forum SEN Working Group and the High Needs Formula Review Group as the main agenda items relate to finalising proposals for the high needs element of school funding reform.

1	Minutes from Previous Meeting The minutes from the previous High Needs Formula Review Group had been presented to Schools Forum in December and any actions arising were included on the agenda for this meeting.	
2	Medical Needs Service Review CW updated the group on the current review of the Medical Needs Service. The service had previously been delivered as part of the Young People's Support Service (YPSS). From September 2013, with the closure of the retained YPSS, the Medical Needs Service will form part of the new EOTAS service. Referral to the service is currently through Consultants however CW explained that there are changes to the national guidance for medical provision expected and this may lead to the service needing to accept GP referrals. The restructure of the service is to be carried out within existing budget levels and the new service will be in operation from September 2013 comprising hospital provision for up to 10 places and 30 other "places" for more personalised packages to meet the needs of students, for example on-line learning. PC asked how the 80% AWPU movement would be applied for Special Schools (or other high needs provision) as there would be no AWPU from April 2013. Action – EW to review and propose mechanism DB highlighted the need to work closely with CAMHS to enable pupils to get back in to school as early as possible.	EW
3	School Funding Reform – High Needs Pupils EW updated the group on the elements of funding reform that had already been agreed for high needs provision – payment dates for starters and leavers, treatment of specialism funding in special schools, etc. KK outlined the agreed planned places for high needs provision as follows:	

Resource Bases	Original Capacity	Planned Places Sept 2012	Planned Places Sept 2013
Complex Needs	200	181	165
Physical Impairment	22	17	13
Hearing Impairment	32	28	22
Communication and Interaction (incl. ASD)	112	112	112

KK emphasised that the changes in places within Resource Bases are in line with the SEN Review. Reductions in PI places reflect the fact that most schools now have access for pupils with physical disabilities. The reduction in HI places is due to the reduction in places at Stonehenge school to zero although the LA will still be commissioning a service from Stonehenge school for an additional HI Teacher.

Planned Places in **special schools** will increase in Exeter House and Springfields (additional 6 places in each school)

KK noted that there is a reduction in the number of planned **ELP** places for September 2013 following the autumn banding moderation exercise. An additional planned place to those moderated will be funded for each school to allow for some change in numbers from September.

A further banding moderation exercise will take place for all high needs provision before the end of March to ensure that all pupils in places on 1st April have been banded.

PB asked how Cashflow for special schools would be managed. Action – EW and PCO to review

PCO outlined the calculation for top-up rates for special schools, ELP and resource bases and the overall cost. It was stressed that comparisons of funding compared with 2012-13 were difficult because it depended on the number of places filled at the time the financial modelling had been carried out. It was agreed that

1. a summary of the top up rates and the cost would be presented to Schools Forum as part of the budget setting papers.
2. An option to increase the value of top up rates in complex needs centres to reflect the decrease in place numbers should be presented to Schools Forum – this would take the form of a % increase in the short term until place values can be re-worked for future years.
3. A new A+ band be recommended for ASD resource bases to reflect the increasing complexity of needs being met within these centres
4. An option of a 2% turbulence rate to be included in the special school top-up rate be modelled for Schools Forum depending on affordability.

The specific impact of funding reform and of pupil movement on Downlands school was discussed. It was agreed that the new funding model cannot be designed to address all of these impacts and that the LA would need to work separately with Downlands in the light of the impact of funding reform.

EW/PCO

EW

EW

EW

EW

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AOB

No further AOB was discussed

5	Date of Next Meeting Next meeting of the SEN Working Group agreed as 26 th February, 2pm	
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