

**Subject: Service Level Agreements and Moderation for Resource Bases**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To seek agreement from Schools Forum on proposed service level agreements and banding models for Resource Bases in mainstream schools (Complex Needs, Autism, Speech & Language, Hearing Impairment, Physical Impairment). These are currently referred to as Specialist Learning Centres.

### **Background**

2. In order to achieve greater clarity of expectations and improved commissioning of services from resources bases located within mainstream schools a group of Head Teachers have worked with the Head of SEN to develop Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for Resource Bases. The draft Complex Needs SLA is attached as an example in Appendix 1.
3. It has also been recognised that pupils within the Resource Bases are not funded according to levels of need. The working group have therefore developed descriptors to recognise levels of need which will be subject to a moderation process. The draft descriptors for Complex Needs are attached as an example in Appendix 2

### **Main considerations for Schools Forum**

4. The development of service level agreements is the first step in moving towards a system in which Resource Bases are commissioned with clear expectations of the needs to be met and funded according to the levels of need within the centres. Funding models are being developed and will be brought to Schools Forum for consideration in the autumn.
5. Development of funding models will be prioritised in the Complex Needs Centres, Speech & Language Centres and Autism Centres. It is anticipated that funding models can be agreed for April 2011 for implementation from September 2011. Due to capacity issues it is expected that work to complete funding models for the Hearing Impairment and Physical Impairment Centres may need to be delayed until the 2012/13 financial year.

### **Environmental impact of the proposal**

6. None anticipated in respect of this specific proposal. Within the overall SEN review it is anticipated that an outcome will be increased numbers of

pupils educated in their local mainstream school hence reducing the numbers of journeys to specialist provision.

### **Equalities impact of the proposal**

7. The purpose of the SLA and banding proposals from a finance perspective is to ensure consistency in the consideration of need and allocation of resources across the resource bases.

### **Risk assessment**

8. There is a risk that in delaying the work on funding models for the Hearing Impairment and Physical Impairment centres the totality of the funding required for resource bases will not be identified at the same time. This risk is thought to be of lower impact than attempting to review all of the centres at once without the officer capacity to properly carry out the work.

### **Financial implications**

9. Funding models for the centres need to be developed and will be presented to Schools Forum at a future meeting

### **Legal implications**

10. None anticipated.

### **Proposal**

11. It is proposed that the development of Service Level Agreement and banding descriptors is agreed as the way that Resource Base provision will be commissioned in the future.

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17 June 2010

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Proposed SLA for Complex Needs Centres  
Appendix 2 – Proposed categories of need for Complex Needs Centres

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