

## Schools Forum SEN/Social Deprivation Working Group

### Minutes – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010

**Present:** Liz Williams, Judith Finney, Sarah O'Donnell, Colin Smith, Kieran McCarthy, Avis Ball, Karina Kulawik, John Hawkins, Trevor Daniels

**Apologies:** Julia Cramp, Phil Beaumont, Paul Senior

		Action
1	Minutes from Previous Meeting The minutes from the meeting of 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010 were agreed.	
2	<p><b>Young Person's Support Service (YPSS)</b> KMcC presented a report outlining the current financial position in the YPSS. A number of options to address the projected overspend of £170,000 in 2010/11 were presented:</p> <p>Option 1 – savings in commissioning of alternative provision £20,000, additional investment required £150,000 Option 2 – as Option 1 plus staffing reductions of £50,000. Additional investment required £120,000 Option 3 – as above but including staffing reductions of £100,000. Investment of £50,000 still required.</p> <p>The report included benchmarking information from the Section 52 return with statistical neighbours and with regional neighbours. There was some discussion on the difficulties of using benchmarking information as services differ between local authorities.</p> <p>The Group agreed it was necessary for the service to balance its budget within the current year. Until the final DSG settlement is announced it is not clear whether there would be additional DSG for investment in the current year. It was recommended that:</p> <p>The service needs to agree with the YPSS Board proposals to balance the budget in the current year; If additional investment is available following the final DSG settlement the group recommended that priority should be given to investing in alternative provision – recognising the need to ensure that statutory requirements for excluded pupils are met as a priority.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the outcome of the review of the service due to take place this summer would inform budget priority discussions in the autumn. It was agreed that the Terms of Reference for the service review would be fed back to the Group</p>	EW
3	<p><b>Implications of National Changes</b> EW gave a verbal update on the financial implications of some of the new government policies, particularly the Academies Bill.</p>	
4	<p><b>Special School Banding Moderation Process</b> KK presented an update on the Special School Banding Moderation process. Schools Forum had requested a review of the process and the relative values of the bands following issues that had arisen in the budget setting process for 2010/11. The main amendments to the</p>	

process have been agreed with the Special School Head Teachers as follows:

- Amendments to the practicalities of the process including ensuring appropriate representation from each school, some amendments to the paperwork and the introduction of a further peer review process at the end of the moderation day to ensure any cases where there was no agreement could be reassessed on the day.
- Amendments to the timescale of the moderation with the moderation day now proposed to take place in October to ensure time to resolve any issues afterwards and enable full discussion at the December Schools Forum.

It was agreed that the changes to the process should be recommended to Schools Forum.

**5 Funding Values for Special Schools**

EW presented the work that had been done to review the relative values of the bands used to fund Special Schools. A needs led model had been developed based on DfES Circular 11/90 which had proposed different staffing levels appropriate to different levels of need. The relative values of the needs led model compared with the current relative values as follows:

Band	Needs led staffing weighting	2010-11 Band Values
Band 1+	3.64	3.64
Band 1	2.78	2.98
Band 2	2.36	1.89
Band 3	1.93	1.74
Band 4	1.35	1.50
Band 5	1.00	1.00

It was agreed that the needs led model should be adopted for funding Wiltshire Special Schools although it was recognised that each special school would need to staff and manage its school based on the mix and needs of pupils rather than rigidly applying the staffing levels suggested in the model for each band.

In order to fully fund the needs led model an additional £335,000 would be required. In order to move to the new relative values without increasing funding will result in turbulence between schools however it was not recommended that Schools Forum deviate from its previous recommendation that any further changes within the special schools formula should be self financing.

**6 SLAs and Moderation for Resource Bases**

TD circulated a proposed Service Level Agreement and also a proposed set of descriptors for banding pupils within Complex Needs Centres. TD explained that this was the result of work by a group of Head Teachers over the last year and was designed to give clarity of expectations and tighter commissioning and to fund pupils within the Centres based on a level of need. 2 different levels of need are

	<p>proposed within the Complex Needs Resource Bases.</p> <p>At this stage TD was looking for agreement on the SLA and banding model, proposals for the funding model will be brought to Schools Forum in the Autumn. It was agreed that the SLA and banding model should be recommended to Schools Forum.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the work on funding models for Complex Needs Resource Bases plus the Speech &amp; Language and Autism Centres should be progressed for the Autumn. It was agreed that any changes to the formula for HI/PI centres could be delayed until the following year due to capacity issues in completing all of the work for April 2011.</p>	
8	<p><b>Mainstream Primary SEN Formula Progress</b></p> <p>TD updated the group on progress on the mainstream primary SEN formula. A first meeting had been held with head teachers and the main issues being considered are:</p> <p>Clarity on the amounts currently delegated  Moving towards a driver for delegation that is considered fair and can be audited  Looking towards increasing transparency on SEN funding within schools;  Reviewing the total SEN spend to identify funding that can be released to supplement the mainstream formula.</p> <p>TD explained that the timescale for the formula review is to implement a new funding formula for April 2011.</p>	
9	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>AB raised an issue related to fixed term contracts for Teaching Assistants which come to an end when NPA funding for a specific pupil ceases. Recent advice to head teachers from HR had suggested that when fixed term contracts came to an end the Teaching Assistant would be entitled to redundancy pay. AB raised concerns about the cost implications of this. It was agreed that TD/EW would follow this up with HR</p> <p>EW thanked CS for his contribution to the group throughout the last years</p>	TD/EW
10	<p><b>Date &amp; Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> September 9.30am at County Hall</p>	