

Report from the Schools Forum SEN Working Group

Purpose of report

1. To report on the meeting of the SEN Working Group held on 10th January 2014.

Main considerations for School Forum

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. In relation to the proposal for additional funding to support hard to place pupils the group requested that the following views of the group were incorporated in to the Schools Forum report:
 - That the group generally supported the proposal to ensure that funding needed to be identified to enable appropriate provision to be made for this group of pupils;
 - That if funding is allocated to the Fair Access Panels as proposed there need to be robust criteria and moderation processes to ensure that panels are consistent and equitable in the allocation of the funding;
 - That any funding allocated for this purpose needed to be kept separate from the main devolved funding formula for alternative provision so it could be monitored and targeted appropriately;
 - That funding needs to be identified and that if funding could only be identified from one off reserves then work would need to take place during 2014-15 to identify a more sustainable funding model for 2015-16 onwards (and that this might include seeking support from the EFA to fund growth in hard to place pupils)

4. *Proposals*

That Schools Forum notes the minutes of the SEN Working Group.

**Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director**
