

Record of meeting of High Needs Block Technical Sub-Group of the Schools Forum

Date: Friday 14 July 2017

Time: 9am to 12.10pm

Place: Room 14a, Priory House

Attendees:-

Peter Cohen (Chair) Stuart Powell
 David Brandon Bravo Sharon Richards
 Olly Button Joe Selmes
 Shirley Ann Crosbie OBE John Street
 Sue Howley MBE

Also in attendance: -

Dawn Hill
 Hiro Slim
 Fiona Ridgeway
 J Partridge (notes)
 S Tyler

Apologies:-

Gerard Jones
 Victor Wan
 Nikki Southgate
 Ali Brabner

No.	Item	Conclusion(s)	Lead(s)
1.	Role and remit of the group	1. That in the future hard copies of the agenda and papers be circulated at least two weeks before the meeting. 2. That the Membership of the Sub-Group be updated and that other Council officers, including relevant heads of service, be invited to attend meetings for advisory purposes. 3. That the terms of reference be reviewed, with particular attention paid to removing references to the pupil referral unit and SEND transport costs and adding roles relating to growth, ESG and monitoring the overall spend in the high needs block. 4. That a conversation regarding the current consultation on home to school or college travel assistance take place at a future Sub-Group meeting.	SP
2.	Top-ups for special schools and bench-marking with other Local Authority areas	1. That whilst it would be extremely difficult, once the descriptors for Central Bedfordshire were clear, a cross-border conversation be considered to develop a standard set of descriptors to be applied across the region, focusing on	SP/ V Wan

		<p>understanding the demand for places within special schools from across borders and gaining a commitment to commission places.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That Council officers ensure places are being funded appropriately where the figures that were returned to EFA were considerably lower than the number of pupils that attended. 3. That the local authority considers undertaking an evidence based analysis be undertaken and presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Group detailing the number of statutory and dedicated health care plans and the numbers of stated pupils. This analysis might be commissioned externally by the Schools Forum and should include a review of the guidance provided to schools, how our performance relates to comparators and the impact of population growth. 4. That V Wan present a report to the next meeting of the Sub-Group on the outcomes of a report into specialist provision. 	
3.	Funding model for the Alternative Provision free school (2018/19)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a piece of work be undertaken to enable the identification of those young students attending special schools who might need out of authority placements. It should also be ensured that where students require an EHCP that this work takes place in the mainstream setting and not when the child has been referred to the ACB as a Group 1 student. 2. That PC explore the possibility of gaining support for a new free-school bid with the intention of using this to provide additional places for those who might otherwise have gone to the Academy of Central Bedfordshire. 3. That representation be made to suggest moving money from other budgets into the education budget to meet the costs associated with the high needs block in line with demand.. 	SP/ PC
4.	Re-modelling based on outcome of High Needs Block consultation	<p>That a report be presented to the next Sub-Group meeting, once the outcomes of the consultation were known, modelling the way in which the outcomes of the consultation will affect Central Bedfordshire.</p> <p>In addition, the Sub-Group recorded its dissatisfaction that work previously undertaken on a consultation relating to the high needs block national funding formula and recoupment for free schools had not been formally submitted.</p>	DH
5.	Update on reviewing all out of authority places and income	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That scrutiny of the financial contributions from health and social care continue to take place and that further information be provided in the future to improve the 	SP

	from health and Social Care	<p>opportunity for the Sub-Group to scrutinise the contributions of colleagues for out of authority placements.</p> <p>2. That further information be provided to ascertain the numbers of out of authority placements supported by tribunal and the reasons for this support.</p>	
6.	Review commissioned contracts and top-ups	<p>1. That a report be presented to the next meeting of the Sub-Group to discuss the commissioned contracts and services and in particular to discuss the provisions that are necessary, criteria for placing pupils in those provisions and a suggested price for that provision. In particular this should provide the opportunity to review mechanisms for monitoring the outcomes delivered by contracts.</p> <p>2. That KPI data relating to commissioned services be sent by schools to the relevant head of service in the future.</p> <p>3. That SP provide an email clarifying the number of units that were funded.</p>	SP/ all
7.	Current level of spend and any possible overspend on the HN block	Noted a forecast £600k overspend and that in the future the local authority will propose ways of mitigating that overspend so that the Sub-Group can take a view. It was also noted that the central spend overspend was likely to rise further in the future.	SP
8.	New Free School needs	That the Council send a letter of support for the new free school, Sandy Lane Academy, as a matter of urgency.	SP
9.	AOB	Noted that a new appointee for the Schools Forum for the Ivel Valley and Chiltern Vale School has been appointed to attend Schools Forum meetings in the future. It was also noted that meetings were underway with Luton schools with regard to the 10% administration charge that was levied to all out of authority places by special schools.	-
10.	Date of next meeting	That dates be circulated by email to identify future meetings between the Schools Forum meetings, with the next one being early October.	JP

Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Head of Governance

Telephone: 0300 300 4634

Email: jonathon.partridge@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk