

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

Date: Tuesday 17 October 2017

Time: 9am to 12.30pm

Place: The Leaders Meeting Room, Priory House

Attendees:-

Peter Cohen
 Lisa Leonard
 Oly Button
 John Street
 Sue Howley MBE
 Joe Selmes
 Joe Creswick

Also in attendance: -

Dawn Hill
 Leo Jones
 Stuart Powell
 Hero Slinn
 Jackie Edwards
 Fiona Nnanyere
 Victor Wan
 Sharon Griffin (notes)

Apologies:-

David Brandon Bravo
 Nikki Southgate
 Ali Brabner
 Sharon Richards

No.	Item	Conclusion(s)	Lead(s)
2.	Role and remit of the group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That reports would include an executive summary setting out what is required of the Sub-Group and recommendations. 2. That the agenda for future meetings should be succinct and focussed. 	LJ
3.	Current pressure and mitigations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the forecast overspend of £971k for the High Needs Block had been noted at the September meeting of the Schools Forum. 2. That further work would be undertaken in consultation with schools to look at the capacity of provision, outcomes of provision, quality assurance, ways of mitigating some of the pressures on the High Needs Block and more accurate forecasting of pupil numbers. 	LJ All

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. That this process would include issues such as parental expectation, early intervention, the basic offer from schools, the inclusion agenda, collaborative ways of working between health, social care and education and examples of good practice. 4. That an update on the work undertaken would be given at the December meeting of the Sub-Group. 	LJ
4.	SEN Forecast and capacity review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a piece of work be undertaken in conjunction with Special School and Mainstream Head Teacher to map out provision and capacity of SEND schools in Central Bedfordshire and the potential future forecast of SEN needs. 2. That there is the need for an overarching strategy to support the SEND in Central Bedfordshire. 3. That further dialogue would take place with Head Teacher of Oakbank and the DfE about the future of the free school site with this dialogue focusing on ensuring any future provision is based on the needs of children in Central Bedfordshire, with current projections demonstrating a pressing need for ASD and SLD rather than SEMH for CBC children 4. That the pupil numbers and surplus places for Special Schools given in the report would be checked for accuracy. 	LJ VW
5.	Banding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a meeting is convened within the next 4-6 weeks between the local authority and Special School Head Teachers, to review the evidence presented on the proposed changes to Special School Banding Allowances, including the costings and the impact. 2. Further meetings to take place following this session with Heads and representatives from the ACB, Jigsaw, Mainstream Schools with units etc to confirm banding changes 3. That individual conversations would take place with Head Teachers during the process. 4. That an implementation plan for the revised Banding Allowances would be drafted following the outcome of the workshops, confirming implementation from the financial year 2019/10. 	FN/HS

6.	High Needs Funding Formula	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That modelling would be undertaken to show the costs to the High needs Block for Special Schools, ACB and Provisions (including recoupment). Please numbers will be provided by the SEN Team following submission of the HN Place notification for 2018/19. 2. Work would take place on issues around Further Education such as the reduction in college places and the provision of requirements for Post 16 leavers. 3. That an explanatory note would be drawn up with regards to the baseline adjustment between the HN and School Block (£343k). This relates to the places value for provisions of £6k when the place is occupied as at census day. 	DH LJ DH
7.	Commissioning and reporting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a robust review would take place around the quality and outcomes of commissioned services and contracts. 2. That further data would be collected on commissioned services and reported at the December meeting of the Sub-Group. 	LJ
8.	ACB review of Terms of Reference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the draft Terms of Reference for the Academy of Central Bedfordshire (ACB) contract review were noted. 2. That the review needed to include the current financing and sustainability of the ACB. 3. That any comments about the draft Terms of Reference should be sent to Jackie Edwards. 4. That an initial update on the initial findings of the Review would be given at the December meeting of the Sub-Group. 	JE
9.	Preparation for Adulthood – Demonstration Sites Evaluation Report	Noted as an item for information.	
10.	Department for Education July Newsletter	Noted as an item for information.	

11.	AOB	None	
12.	Date of next meeting	December 2017 – date to be confirmed	SG

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