



Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group

Education and Skills Service

Meeting: Additional Educational Needs Sub Committee of the Schools Forum
Date: 25th September 2019
Time: 3.00pm
Venue: Chairman's Dining Room

<p>Present: Dionne Illingworth - Business Improvement Manager Bruce Parvin - Education & Skills Business Manager Colin Pearson – Three Rivers Trust</p>	<p>Russell Pickering - Senior SEND Manager Graham Wilkins - Chair Deborah Wylie - HT Cramlington Village Primary</p>
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Notes Lisa Headington

Start time:	Action:
1. Welcome and Introductions	
2. In Attendance See above	
3. Apologies: Sue Aviston, Sam Barron, Suzanne Connolly, Keith Faulkner, Emma Miller.	
4/5 Membership and Membership Update/Terms of Reference Membership:- Colin Bradshaw has left Barndale.RP to contact Special Heads for a representative to replace Colin. Tom Dexter has left PRU. BP spoke to Dave Cookson about a representative from the PRU and was advised that as they only have a temporary Head at present to wait until position more settled before reconsidering PRU representation. . Suzanne Connolly - is stepping down from Schools Forum but has expressed interest in continuing on the AEN Committee. Usually need to be forum members also however not always the case. All happy for Suzanne to continue. Terms of reference:-	

	<p>Point raised about the name of the Committee (Additional Educational Needs) as to whether it is the clearest term for the remit if the committee or if high needs is more suitable.</p> <p>AEN is broader - may need to clarify as focus is about High needs funding.</p> <p>CP confirmed originally SEN (Special Educational Needs) and were asked to change at that time to AEN.</p> <p>All agreed to change to High Needs Committee.</p> <p>All agreed for Graham Wilkins to continue as Chair of the Committee.</p> <p>CP to highlight at next School Forum the need for more representatives.</p>	CP
6.	<p>Declaration of personal or pecuniary Interest in any agenda item.</p> <p>No declaration of pecuniary interest declared by members.</p>	
7.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting/Matters arising from Previous Minutes:</p> <p>Reason for not having a recent meeting was due to budget setting cycle and not having any further information to share.</p> <p>Minutes have gone to Schools Forum.</p> <p>Pg3 - Para 9 an update in relation to numbers and bandings is to be provided as part of policy.</p> <p>pg4 - Para 10 GW queried about the permanent exclusions. Work has been done by a Task and Finish Group and hope to report at the November Schools Forum meeting. Numbers were reduced and having Inclusion workers has had an impact.</p> <p>RP confirmed review of band 5 pupils - numbers of funded pupils without a EHC Plan had fallen significantly over the past 12-18 months and should be seen as progress.</p>	RP
8.	<p>SEN Data Update</p> <p>The Special Education and Needs in Northumberland 2019 report was shared in advance of the meeting and was discussed.</p> <p>Overall EHCP plans have increased and this trend is expected to</p>	

	<p>continue.</p> <p>Had 90 requests for EHCP assessments in the summer.</p> <p>Large fall in the number of pupils receiving SEN funding without a plan - this was a result of a review of such cases - EHC plan numbers had increased in mainstream but overall funded numbers fallen. Demand for special school places is going up.</p> <p>Need to challenge colleges to demonstrate educational progression as demonstrated by 20-25 numbers increase from 2017 to 2018, this is now happening, hence fall in 2019.</p> <p>The Dales site in Ashington started admitting in January 2019- this was in response to the high demand for Special School Places, but there remains pressure on LA to find additional places.</p> <p>Hexham Priory has increased their capacity.</p> <p>GW queried if the new house building in Blyth and Cramlington are causing a strain on school places. It was confirmed not a SEN issue at the moment.</p> <p>DW queried about the free school application position. RP confirmed that it closes at the end of September. A site had been identified involving 80 places plus 10 places for other LA's</p> <p>DW mentioned that children with EHCP or SEN would like options to choose from for secondary. RP indicated we are looking to have mainstream provision to develop offer to meet the needs of children.</p> <p>A pilot is being considered in the south east opening 2020 involving ASD/SEMH.</p> <p>The aim is to meet the needs of pupils with SEN without having a special school, instead using mainstream school with additional resources.</p> <p>CP requested an overall update be brought to Schools Forum to ensure understanding of the latest issues and overall framework for decisions made.</p> <p>BP stated SEND inspection took place, they were pleased with progress but he would see if an update could be brought to November Schools Forum</p>	
9.	Draft SEN Payment Policy	

	<p>Annex B discussed initially with members.</p> <p>BP shared that a report came to AEN meeting in June and looked at January 2018 census. Identified 1689 SEN payments out of school age population with 1284 plans, or 425 pupils in receipt of SEN funding who did not have a plan.</p> <p>As a benchmark the position as at January 2019 was included in the policy, by this point the number of pupils without Plans in receipt of funding had fallen to 155. Provisional summer 2019 term figures showed a further decrease to 76 pupils so progress maintained which is a credit to the SEN Team.</p> <p>DW stated that the policy is a clear outline of the process which we have not had before and is a very valuable and useful document.</p> <p>BP stated that there is confusion around the notional budget and how schools get additional funding and hopes document demonstrates this now.</p> <p>DW queried if quality assure progress to ensure implementation. Confirmed yes through the commissioning panel, which represents a monitoring “safety net”.</p> <p>In the past had a monitoring post. , If a query raised, will go back to school on a case by case basis.</p> <p>BP also confirmed there is a greater consistency with the paperwork now. In relation to funding, it must be remembered that the bandings are a guide, depending on the level of need and consequently the hours funded - given different levels are in 5 hour bands, some levels would be fully funded within a band, it was a question of averaging.</p> <p>DI confirmed that some outcomes are recorded but not the banding as difficult to sample. Reported monthly back to SEN Teams for audit purposes.</p> <p>DW Queried what her SENCO can do to get the right level for a child.</p> <p>RP confirmed panel make the recommendation but school can ask for it to be reconsidered if not appropriate and can request for a change of banding.</p> <p>All agreed to go to schools forum/schools and practitioners.</p>	
10.	<p>Provisional 2020/21 High Needs Block Funding Information</p> <p>CP queried whether the £700m high needs funding announced was part of the overall Education funding figures or additional to this?</p>	

	<p>BP confirmed it is part of the additional £2.6bn announced for 20/21. , No detail as yet, just overall annual increases : £2.6 bn in 2020/21 £4.8 bn in 2021/22; and £7.1 bn in 2022/23</p> <p>Pro rata it is estimated an 8% increase in HN funding could be worth £2.5 million for Northumberland.</p> <p>A reduced transfer from School Block to High Needs is also anticipated in 2020/21 potentially a reduction of £900.000, if reduced from 1% to 0.5%.</p> <p>While the overall deficit was reduced in 2019/20, this was due to the Schools Block transfer and additional AEN funding.</p>	
11.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Place Numbers:-</p> <p>RP confirmed that the place numbers have been commissioned for Academies by the LA , and an annual return due to the ESFA in November</p> <p>DW queried how good practice could be shared.</p> <p>BP shared that the SENCO Conference shares good practice.</p> <p>RP confirmed that there are Lead SENCO's in post that are open to ideas.</p> <p>RP confirmed there's nothing to stop schools managing budgets creatively.</p>	
	<p>End: 4.15pm</p> <p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: 23 October 2019 at 3.00pm.</p>	