



# Northumberland County Council

## Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group

Education and Skills Service

Meeting: High Needs Sub Committee of the Schools Forum  
Date: Wednesday 23rd October 2019  
Time: 3.00pm  
Venue: Ashington Room, County Hall

<p><b>Present:</b></p> <p><b>Keith Faulkner</b> Vice Chair and Governor at Collingwood  <b>Lorraine Fife</b> School Organisation Manager  <b>Bruce Parvin</b> Education &amp; Skills Business Manager  <b>Russell Pickering</b> Senior SEND Manager  <b>Graham Wilkins</b> Chair and Governor at St Wilfrid's RC Primary School</p>	
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Notes Lisa Headington

	Start time:	Action:
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
2.	<b>In Attendance</b>  <b>See above</b>	
3.	<b>Apologies:</b>  Sue Aviston, Sam Barron, Dionne Illingworth, Emma Miller, Colin Pearson, Deborah Wylie	
4.	<b>Membership and Membership Update</b>  BP confirmed a request for new members has gone out via the Ecourier.  Had Early Years interest.  None for High needs.  To go on the agenda for next Schools Forum.  All agreed for Keith Faulkner to continue as Vice Chair of the Committee.	
5.	<b>Declaration of personal or pecuniary Interest in any agenda item.</b>	

	No declaration of pecuniary interest declared by members.	
6.	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting/Matters arising from Previous Minutes:</b></p> <p>Change of title of the committee as High Needs has been ratified by Schools Forum.</p> <p>All agree the minutes as a true record.</p>	
7.	<p><b>HN Budget Monitoring 2019/20</b></p> <p>A report was shared prior to the meeting with members and a discussion took place about the High Needs block and the overall forecast overspend of £911k.</p> <p>Key advice for Schools Forum on how using high needs funding as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Issues around High Needs Funding</li> <li>● Managing it</li> <li>● £2.7m overspend reduced to £1.8m last year</li> <li>● Overall DSG deficit £1.4m at end of 2018/19</li> <li>● Abby Russell report - came down to £911k</li> <li>● Important to recognise £911k overspend includes £1.4m deficit brought forward so it is continuing to reduce</li> </ul> <p>All happy with progress made.</p> <p>KF queried if the pressure on overspend is with EHCP's if get accepted.</p> <p>RP confirmed there is always an impact, currently have 160 plans in progress.</p> <p>KF queried if the overspend of £911k takes into account the plans.</p> <p>RP confirmed yes currently working through but not full impact.</p> <p>Key activity lead pressures needs to be a focus:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Independent and Non maintained Special School places</li> <li>● No of Education Health and Care Plans</li> <li>● Exclusions - success in reducing these.</li> </ul> <p>Ref para 8 of report - Guidance anticipated in how SEN is accounted for in relation to 6th Form as now part of the high needs block. No detail yet but coming through in December.</p>	

	<p>At ESFA meeting on 18 October BP had sort clarification on new HN guidance. Historically where placing a student over an establishment's funded place numbers, the commissioning authority had to pay the place element too, but that will now come from either the ESFA or the host or provider authority, depending on the circumstances and nature of the placement. .</p> <p>The intention is to reduce the transfer from school funding to high needs. Schools Forum likely to receive request for 0.5% transfer.</p> <p>Modelling will be provided to the Formula Funding Committee on 5 November.</p> <p>BP confirmed there is new additional schools' funding for Northumberland in 2020/21. Final figures not available until December but anticipated an increase of 3.2-3.5%, as featured in October 2019 Schools Forum paper.</p> <p>Reducing request from high needs pot.</p> <p>GW commented that we need to liaise with Formula Funding Committee in relation to final proposals. BP to provide report for Schools Forum.</p> <p>Ref para 9 of report - KF queried if the alternative provision includes Percy Hedley School. Alternative provision for excluded pupils and such as Buzz, Choices and Engage. Not using PRU as they are full and mainly kS4. Percy Hedley School is non-maintained Special School.</p>	BP
8.	<p><b>ESFA Workshop High Needs Presentation</b></p> <p>A presentation was circulated prior to the meeting and a discussion took place about the key points.</p> <p>Indicative 2020/21 funding had been published (see next item), but it should be noted the HN allocations were reviewed over the course of year (e.g. on basis of January data) not static after October census as with School Funding.</p> <p>Background, who do we support in high needs:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pupils with EHC plans;</li> <li>● Preschool pupil with plans if no plans though EY funding;</li> <li>● school age and post 16 in School 6th forms and FE up to age of 19;</li> <li>● Students from 19-25 with an EHC Plan.</li> <li>● Alternative Provision</li> </ul>	

	<p>Additional individual top up paid via a banding system according to assessment of the needs of the child. Paid termly to streamline admin involved, agreed with schools.</p> <p>BP to take some of the information from the presentation to Schools Forum.</p>	BP
9.	<p><b>Provisional HN Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2020/21</b></p> <p>A spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting and a discussion took place.</p> <p>2019/20 figure of £31.7 million taken from school forum papers in February this year, and comparative provisional figures for 2020/21 shown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recoupment deduction shown in line with 2019/20</li> <li>● 8.1% increases in HN block from £29.981m to £32,295 million in net figure after recoupment</li> <li>● After the reduced transfer from schools block it is anticipated that 4.9% additional increase available. (2019/20 £31.777m v 2020/21 £33.321m)</li> </ul> <p>KF queried if the £1.5K increase would include/exclude the overspend, it was clarified that this simply demonstrated change in “in year” resources, it didn't reflect previous brought/forward deficits.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Nothing further discussed.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Date of Next meeting</b></p> <p>A request was received to meet on a Tuesday for the HN meeting and a Wednesday for FF meeting.</p> <p>All agreed to the change for future meetings.</p> <p>Provisional date of Tuesday 10th December at 3.00pm.</p>	
<b>End: 4.15pm</b>		