


REPORT TO CABINET

22 January 2020

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|---|---|
| Subject: | Use of Additional High Needs Block Provision 2020/2021 |
| Presenting Cabinet Member: | Councillor Joyce Underhill - Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life |
| Director: | Executive Director – Resources – Darren Carter Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward Executive Director of Children’s Services – Lesley Hagger |
| Contribution towards Vision 2030: |  |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Cabinet Member Approval and Date: | Councillor Joyce Underhill - Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life. |
| Director Approval: | Executive Director – Resources – Darren Carter Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward: 19 December 2019 Executive Director of Children’s Services – Lesley Hagger |
| Reason for Urgency: | Urgency issues do not apply |
| Exempt Information Ref: | There is no information contained in this report that should not be shared publicly |
| Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable): | This is a Council-wide initiative |
| Scrutiny Consultation Considered? | Scrutiny boards have not been consulted |
| Contact Officer(s): | Steve Lilley steve_lilley@sandwell.gov.uk |

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet is recommended:

1. To approve the proposals, as approved by Schools Forum, to use additional High Needs Block funding for 2020/21 Grant to increase support service delivery to all schools, as identified in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with details of the High Needs Budget (HNB) Grant for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval for the proposed use of the increase in the HNB Grant to increase support service delivery to all schools.

2 IMPLICATION FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The proposals contained in this report support the Sandwell's Vision 2030 as stated in:

Ambition 1: Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience

Ambition 3: Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy and

Ambition 4: Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Funding for education is currently allocated by central government to local authorities in four blocks: schools, central schools service, high needs and early years. The Council agrees with the Schools' Forum the local formulae through which the money is then distributed to schools and early years settings.
- 3.2 The Council is also responsible for distributing the high needs funding to meet the needs of children and young people with additional needs, including special educational needs. This is also done in consultation with the Schools' Forum.

- 3.3 The Schools Forum meeting held on the 16 December 2019 received information on the HNB grant for 2020/21 and agreed proposals for the use of additional funding. These proposals have formed the recommendations for this report.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 At the end of August 2019, the government announced that funding for schools and high needs would increase by £2.6 billion for 2020/21, £4.8 billion for 2021/22, and £7.1 billion for 2022/23, compared to 2019/20.
- 4.2 In September 2019, the Secretary of State for Education announced schools funding arrangements for 2020/21. 2020/21 is the third year of the national funding formula for schools, high needs and central school services.
- 4.3 The announcement identified that Sandwell's HNB grant would increase by £7.1m, from £40.9m for 2019/20 to £48.0m for 2020/21. This excludes funding for academies which is allocated directly to them.
- 4.4 The announcement of additional funding comes following an extended period over a number of years where the service has operated under increasing pressure. Factors impacting on the funding include:
- A growing school population
 - The extension of responsibility for school age pupils SEND to 25
 - Increasing numbers of pupils with additional needs
 - More complex needs of pupils
 - Increasing number of assessments, Education Health and Care Plans and annual reviews
 - Amount and availability of specialist school provisions.
- 4.5 Following the announcement officers from the Children and Young Peoples Services consulted with a range of stakeholders to develop proposals to improve services and specialist provision. Stakeholder groups included:
- Schools Forum
 - Joint Executive Headteacher Group
 - Secondary Headteacher Partnership
 - Primary Headteacher Partnership

- SEND Review Steering Group
- Special School Headteachers
- Pupil Referral Units including Albright
- Focus Provision Headteachers

4.6 The proposals focussed on three areas: service delivery and school support, specialist provision and new free school provision.

4.7 Service Delivery and Schools Support

It was proposed that the capacity of a range of service delivery and school support teams is increased to improve the overall service to children and young people with additional needs, including special educational needs. All posts created will be appointed to on a permanent basis. The teams to receive increased capacity are:

- Educational Child Psychology Team
- Complex Communication Team
- Special Advisory Teaching and Learning Team
- Early Years Team
- Retain the temporary staff in the SEN Casework Team
- Preventing Primary Exclusions Team
- Social Emotional and Mental Health Team
- Administration functions to support the additional staffing
- Independent Travel Training Team.

4.8 In addition, it was proposed that HNB funding is used to jointly commission, with the Clinical Commissioning Group, Occupational Therapy to support sensory impact assessments, to retain the support for Autism West Midlands, Sandwell Parents with Disabled Children and the SEND Information and Advice Support Service.

4.9 Details of the additional costs associated with these proposals are shown in Appendix 1.

4.10 Specialist Provision

Following the consultation process proposals were developed to increase specialist provision for SEN. The following specialist provision is proposed.

- Agreed Expansion of Shenstone Lodge
- Temporary Increase in Focus Provisions places pending new Free Schools
- New Social Emotional and Mental Health Focus Provision

- Increase in Provision at Albright
- New Primary Moderate Learning Difficulties Focus Provision
- Increase in Provision at the Orchard School
- Expansion of Westminster School Post 16

4.11 The proposals assume that pupils with the highest level of need will access the specialist provision. This will include existing pupils and not just new SEN pupils.

4.12 Details of the additional costs associated with these proposals are shown in Appendix 2.

4.13 New Free School Provision

4.14 Two new free schools are being built in the borough. High Point Specialist Secondary Academy is due to open in 2021 with 90 places and the Free Special Primary School is due to open in 2022 with 126 places. There will be a phased intake with full occupancy estimated by 2024 and 2028 respectively.

4.15 The phased cost of these schools is detailed in Appendix 3. The place funding of £10,000 per place should be funded by the DfE through an increase in the Council's HNB.

4.16 Outcomes /Service Improvements

Stakeholders and the Schools believe that by increasing expenditure, as detailed in the proposals, the service can:

- Increase the capacity of specialist teams to assist with assessment and school support
- Reduce the waiting time for support to children
- Increase development work and training within schools to meet the needs of the children
- Ensure that all EHCP assessments are completed within 20 weeks
- Specialist school provision can be increased to meet the growing needs
- SEND 'top-up' funding (Element 3) for schools can be returned to previous levels.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 The stakeholders consulted with when developing the proposals are identified in Para 4.4.

- 5.2 The Schools Forum formerly considered the proposals developed with stakeholders at its meeting held on 16 December 2019. The outcomes of this meeting have informed the recommendations of this report.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 A range of alternative proposals were considered during the stakeholder engagement and consultation process, before the final proposals were submitted to the Schools Forum for approval.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council receives HNB Grant from the Department of Education as part of its Dedicated Schools Grant. The Secretary of State for Education announced that Sandwell would receive HNB Grant of £48.0m for 2020/21 which equates to an increase of £7.1m, compared to the allocation for 2019/20.
- 7.2 A summary of the additional costs for the proposals described in section 4 is shown in Table 1, below:

Table 1: Summary of Additional Costs

| | 20/21 £000 | 21/22 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Service Delivery and School Support | 3,270 | 3,270 |
| Specialist Provision | 1,479 | 1,479 |
| Free Schools | 0 | 276 |
| Total | 4,749 | 5,025 |
| Increase in Grant | 7,100 | 7,100 |
| Yearly Surplus/(Deficit) | 2,351 | 2,075 |

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Authority has to adhere to the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken by the service and all impacts from the proposals are positive.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 There are no specific data protection measures to consider, all data relating to the matter is maintained in accordance with the Data Protection measures previously implemented by the Council.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 There are no crime and disorder issues needed to be considered as part of this report.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 The Government announced in August that funding for schools and high needs would increase by £2.6bn for 2020/21, £4.8 billion for 2021/22, and £7.1 billion for 2022/23, compared to 2019/20. Which includes the additional funding for Sandwell identified in Para 4.3. However, the division of funding between schools and high needs for 2021/22 and 2022/23 has yet to be determined.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 Research has identified that children with SEN often experience lower levels of subjective well-being in their educational environment. The range of proposals identified in this report seek to provide greater support to children with SEN, and their families, and will positively impact on their well-being.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 The proposals in this report do not impact any Council managed property or land.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The announcement of additional funding for High Needs in 2020/21 enables the service to make a range of service improvements to meet growing demand and which will have positive impact children with SEN, and their families.

15.2 The service improvement proposals have been developed with the full engagement of a range of stakeholders and approved by the Schools Forum

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 High Needs Block Grant Provision 2020/21 report to Schools Forum – 16 December 2019

17 APPENDICES:

17.1 Appendices 1, 2 and 3 – attached

Darren Carter
Executive Director – Resources

Chris Ward
Director of Education, Skills and Employment

Lesley Hagger
Executive Director of Children's Services

Summary of Service Delivery and Schools Support Proposals

| Proposal Description | Full Year Estimated Cost £000 |
|---|--|
| Educational Child Psychology Team 4 additional ECPs and retention of 3 Assistant ECPs <i>Increasing from 11 to 18 FTE</i> | 410 |
| Complex Communication Team 4 additional Teachers 1 additional Development Support Officer and retention of additional hours <i>Increasing from 4 to 10 FTE</i> | 280 |
| Special Advisory Teaching and Learning Team 1.6 Additional Teachers <i>Increasing from 8.4 to 10 FTE</i> | 82 |
| Early Years Team 1 Area SENCO, 2 Additional Development Officers, and retention of 2 temporary Development Officers <i>Increasing from 12 to 17 FTE</i> | 149 |
| Special Educational Needs Casework Retention of 4 Temporary Plan writers <i>Increasing from 17 to 21 FTE</i> | 164 |
| Preventing Primary Exclusions Team* 1 Additional PPE officer <i>Increasing from 4.8 to 5.6 FTE</i> | 211 |
| Social Emotional and Mental Health Team 1 Additional Teacher and retention of temporary teachers <i>Increasing from 7 to 10 FTE</i> | 546 |
| Administration Teams 2 Additional Administration Assistants and 1 Apprentice <i>Increasing from 12.5 to 15.5 FTE</i> | 72 |
| Independent Travel Training Team 2 Additional Travel Trainers | 47 |
| Occupational Therapy joint commissioning | 70 |
| Autism West Midlands | 35 |
| Sandwell Parents with Disabled Children | 30 |
| SEND Information and Advice Support Service | 19 |
| Exclusions 1 Additional Exclusions officer & 1 Social worker <i>Increasing from 1 to 2 FTE</i> | 94 |
| Personal and Social Education Team 7 Additional PSE Officers | 211 |
| Increase in Top up to schools | 850 |
| TOTAL | 3,270 |

*This proposal includes funding the whole of the PPE team from the HNB grant, when it was previously funded from De-Delegated funds.

Summary of Specialist Provision Proposals

| Proposals Description | No of places | Full Year cost* £000 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Agreed Expansion of Shenstone Lodge | 10 | 342 |
| Temporary Increase in Focus Provision Places | 20 | 444 |
| New Social Emotional and Mental Health Focus Provision | 5 | 111 |
| Increase in places at Albright | 10 | 100 |
| New Primary Moderate Learning Difficulties Focus Provision | 5 | 93 |
| Increase in Provision at Orchard School | 5 | 119 |
| Westminster School Post 16 | 30 | 694 |
| Total | 85 | 1,903 |
| Estimated Offset Costs | 40 | (424) |
| Net Cost | | 1,479 |

* Assuming full capacity

Appendix 3

Cost Profile for New School Provision

| | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 | 24/25 | 25/26 | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Highpoint | 276 | 610 | 847 | 1,083 | 1,181 | 1,181 | 1,181 | 1,181 |
| Primary | - | 276 | 610 | 847 | 1,083 | 1,319 | 1,556 | 1,654 |
| Total | 276 | 886 | 1,457 | 1,930 | 2,264 | 2,500 | 2,737 | 2,835 |
| | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 | 24/25 | 25/26 | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 |
| | Place | Place | Place | Place | Place | Place | Place | Place |
| Highpoint | 21 | 47 | 65 | 83 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Primary | - | 21 | 47 | 65 | 83 | 101 | 119 | 126 |
| Total | 21 | 68 | 112 | 148 | 173 | 191 | 209 | 216 |