

## **Schools Forum**

### **SEND and HNB Review**

**This report is for decision**

- 1. Recommendations: To consider report and make recommendations on the future use of the high needs block grant and high needs capital allocation grant**

## **2. Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1** To provide schools forum with the outcome of the SEND Provision and HNB Review consultation with schools and parents. To make recommendations for future allocation of financial resources through the High Needs Block and Highs Needs Capital Allocation Grant.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1** Sandwell has seen a significant rise of children/young people (C/YP) with SEND requiring additional support in recent years. The number of C/YP requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan has doubled since the introduction of the SEND Reforms in 2014. Professionals report that there has been an increase in the complexity of needs of pupils and current capacity of Special schools within the local area is limited.
- 3.2** A sufficiency analysis was undertaken using historic and current data to predict anticipated need in the future. Data included population growth of pupils with SEND, trends in specific areas of SEND needs, capacity within specialist provision and financial implications.

- 3.3. Proposals were constructed through steering group meetings with: Special, Focus Provision schools and Pupil Referral Units (through Extended Special Heads meetings), mainstream primary and secondary schools. These were then further developed by a sub-group of school's forum which had representation from Special School, PRU, Focus Provision Schools, mainstream primary and mainstream secondary school.
- 3.4 The consultation was sent electronically to Head Teachers, included in the school's bulletin and posted on the Local Offer. It was also advertised through Sandwell Parent Voice United social media platforms and a parents meeting organised.
- 3.4 The Consultation period ran from 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- 3.5 Please refer to appendix 1 for proposals within the consultation

#### **4. Outcome of consultation**

- 4.1 Please refer to appendix 2 for the outcomes of the consultation and specific feedback from the review
- 4.2 41 respondents in total to the consultation proposals including 25 Head Teachers, 3 members of SLT, 10 SENCOs and 3 Parent / carers

#### **5. Proposal 1: Time allocation of Inclusion Support Services to Secondary Schools.**

- 5.1 In total 95% of participants in the consultation voted to change time allocation of Inclusion Support Services within Secondary schools to a formula model.

Option 1.1: 55% felt the new formula should be aligned to the primary school model

Option 1.2: 41% felt the formula needed further discussion and agreement through a secondary school steering group.

Option 1.3: 4.8% voted to maintain current flat rate model

62% of secondary schools who took part in the consultation voted for Option 1.2, only 14.0% voted for Option 1.3 (to maintain current flat rate) and 24% voted for the primary formula.

The cost of this proposal on the HNB is Nil

5.2 *Recommendation: To change time allocation of Inclusion Support Services in Secondary Schools to a formula model. To ensure that the model is viewed as a fair and consistent approach across Secondary schools, it is recommended that Secondary colleagues are consulted on the key indicators and weightings within the model.*

6.0 **Proposal 2: Determine the use of funding being held within SEN Support Services category of the High Needs Block for a Secondary Preventing Exclusions Team**

6.1 Option 2.1: 40% of participants voted to use HNB funding to employ a new Secondary Preventing Exclusions team.

Option 2.2: 60% of participants votes to use HNB funding to employ the Transition / Integration Team who are currently funded through the Exclusion Levy

6.2 *Recommendation: To use HNB funding to employ the Transition /Integration Team who are currently funded through the schools Exclusion Levy funding.*

6.3 The cost of the PSE team is already built into the HNB at a cost of £198,600 so will have no significant impact

7.0 **Proposal 3: To determine the level of top up funding allocated to C/YP with an Education Health and Care Plan**

7.1 Option 3.1: 11.6% of participants voted for 1% increase of Top Up funding to all pupils in mainstream and special schools

Option 3.2: 20% of participants voted for 2% increase of Top Up funding to all pupils in mainstream and special schools

Option 3.3: 8.3% of participants voted for 1% increase of Top Up funding to pupils in mainstream schools

Option 3.4: 25% of participants voted for 2% increase of Top Up funding to pupils in mainstream schools.

Option 3.5: 23% of participants voted to maintain current levels of Top Up funding

- 7.2 There was 1 vote difference between Option 3.4 and Option 3.5. The financial implications for this proposal will need to be carefully considered by schools forum.
- 7.3 Option 3.4 will have a cost implication and assuming that the HNB does not have any future substantial increases in the grant after 2022/23, this will produce an in-year deficit in 2025/26 and subsequent years.
- 7.4 Option 3.5 will maintain current predicted surplus from the baseline position. However, decisions around increasing specialist placements will impact on surplus going forward and these will need to be taken into consideration when deciding on this proposal
- 7.5 *Recommendation: For schools forum to consider the financial implications of Option 3.4 and Option 3.5*

**8. Proposal 4: To incrementally increase specialist places for pupils with severe learning difficulties / complex needs and secondary aged SEMH students.**

8.1 The list below provides suggested examples of incremental changes to Specialist Provision within Sandwell to address the current short fall. Designation of need is based on current priorities for placement.

- KS3 SEMH FP – 10 places HNB £231,290 + capital costs
- KS3 / 4 SEMH Specialist – 10 places HNB annual cost £347,370 + capital costs
- Increase SLD / Complex Needs provision primary + secondary Satellite Schools / extension – 20 places HNB annual cost £482, 920 + capital costs.

Capital costs would be met through the High Needs Capital Allocation Grant.

8.2 Option 4.1: 87.5% of participants agreed with the proposal to increase additional specialist places for pupils with SLD/complex needs and secondary aged SEMH students

Option 4.2: 12.5% of participants disagreed with this proposal

8.3 *Recommendation: To use HNB Funding and High Needs Capital Allocation to support the increase of specialist places for pupils with SLD/Complex needs and secondary aged SEMH pupils*

8.4 If it is assumed that there are no significant increases in the HNB Grant after 2022/23 the incremental effect of funding additional specialist places will put the HNB into deficit from 2023/24 at the earliest worst-case scenario

9.0 **Proposal 5: To support development specialist teaching spaces in mainstream schools**

9.1 Option 5.1: 68% of participants agreed with the proposal to use High Needs Capital Allocation Funding to support development of specialist teaching/intervention spaces within mainstream schools

Option 5.2 : 32% of participants disagreed with the proposals

9.2 Recommendation: To use funding from the High Needs Capital Allocation to implement a grant system to support mainstream schools in developing specialist teaching paces to support pupils with SEND needs

10.0 **Proposal 6: To provide a limited resource grant through HNB funding to schools establishing specialist teaching spaces.**

10.1 Option 6.1: 65% of participants agreed with this proposal to provide a small resource grant (£2000) to contribute to resources when establishing specialist hubs.

Option 6.2: 35% of participants disagreed with the proposal

10.2 Recommendation: To use HNB funding to implement a grant system for allocation of a limited resource grant to contribute to the equipping of specialist teaching spaces.

10.2 The cost of this proposal will be minimal and can be met from the HNB carry forward as at 1 April 2023 as one-off expenditure.

11.0 **Recommendations**

ILO - UNCLASSIFIED

It is recommended that Schools Forum note the contents of the report.

Date: 2.11.21.

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