

**REPORT:** School Forum

**DATE:** 19 March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision

**SUBJECT:** High Needs Pupils and Students

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1 This report provides an update on the work undertaken on developing the processes and funding for high needs pupils and students. It also outlines the consultation arrangements and next steps required.

**2.0 RECOMMENDED:**

**2.1 The progress to date is noted;**

**2.2 School Forum note that a further update report will be circulated prior to the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013.**

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 Two funding options have now been developed for the arrangements for top up funding for the four special schools. Both models are based on 2012/2013 cash budgets and 2013/2014 estimated numbers. The first model shows a single top up rate for each category of need in each school. Although the same ratios are used, as the costs and numbers for each school differ the top up level differs between each schools. The proposed top up levels are as follows:

<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Ashley</b>	<b>Chesnut Lodge</b>	<b>Brookfields</b>	<b>Cavendish</b>
Communication & Interaction (CI)	8186.53	14075.70	11538.34	15201.65
Learning & Cognition (LC)	3654.70	6283.79	5151.05	6786.45
Behaviour, Emotional & Social Development (BESD)	5869.45	10091.77	8272.58	10899.04
Sensory &/or Physical Needs (SPN)	6874.50	11819.82	n/a	n/a

- 3.3 The second option bands the top up into two categories so that allowance is made for pupils who need one to one support. To fund within the current resources the top up allocated for those pupils identified in category one has been reduced.

#### **Ashley School**

CI pupils Level 1	<b>6,998.05</b>
CI pupils Level 2	<b>28,268.05</b>
LC pupils Level 1	<b>3,124.13</b>
LC pupils Level 2	<b>24,394.13</b>
BESD pupils Level 1	<b>5,017.35</b>
BESD pupils Level 2	<b>26,287.35</b>
SPN pupils Level 1	<b>5,876.49</b>
SPN pupils Level 2	<b>27,146.49</b>

#### **Chesnut Lodge School**

CI pupils Level 1	<b>7,823.59</b>
CI pupils Level 2	<b>29,093.59</b>
LC pupils Level 1	<b>3,492.68</b>
LC pupils Level 2	<b>24,762.68</b>
BESD pupils Level 1	<b>5,609.24</b>
BESD pupils Level 2	<b>26,879.24</b>
SPN pupils Level 1	<b>6,569.72</b>
SPN pupils Level 2	<b>27,839.72</b>

#### **Brookfields**

CI pupils Level 1	<b>5,995.33</b>
CI pupils Level 2	<b>27,265.33</b>
LC pupils Level 1	<b>2,676.49</b>
LC pupils Level 2	<b>23,946.49</b>
BESD pupils Level 1	<b>4,298.44</b>
BESD pupils Level 2	<b>25,568.44</b>
SPN pupils Level 1	<b>n/a</b>
SPN pupils Level 2	<b>n/a</b>

#### **Cavendish**

CI pupils Level 1	<b>10,019.48</b>
CI pupils Level 2	<b>31,289.48</b>
LC pupils Level 1	<b>4,472.98</b>
LC pupils Level 2	<b>25,742.98</b>
BESD pupils Level 1	<b>7,183.61</b>
BESD pupils Level 2	<b>28,453.61</b>
SPN pupils Level 1	<b>n/a</b>
SPN pupils Level 2	<b>n/a</b>

- 3.4 The four special schools have been consulted on the two funding options. The outcome of this consultation will be shared with the School Forum in the second report to be circulated before the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

#### **4.0 HIGH NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 As reported at previous School Forum meetings a task group has met on a number of occasions to consider the changes required to the high needs assessment process. The aim of the funding reform is to “align pre-16 and post-16 needs funding more closely”. The place- plus approach is intended to achieve a greater degree of alignment such that high needs funding is arranged on the basis of a single set of principles across the 0-5 age-range.
- 4.2 The task group has therefore developed a High Needs Pupil/Student Assessment Process so that Halton has documented procedures to assess the needs of all pupils/students with high needs from 0-25 years old for the year 2013-14.
- 4.3 The document outlines the statutory duties, funding reforms, definition of high needs pupils and students, describes an overview of the three different funding elements, the principles of future funding for element 3 of the top up funding, describes the graduated approach, transition to post-16 and describes the assessment processes and panels.
- 4.4 The current banding criteria has now been adapted in line with the higher levels of delegation to schools and to ensure consistency up to 25. In addition, a flow chart has been produced which provides an overview of the assessment process. These three documents will be finalised at the next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and shared with the SEN Working Group at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013. These documents will then be circulated to School Forum prior to the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

#### **5.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
School Funding Reform Arrangements 2013/2014	DFE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision & Ed Dawson – Operational Director- Financial Services