

REPORT TO: Halton School Forum

DATE: 21st January 2014

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

SUBJECT: Ashley Post-16 Transitional Funding

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve transitional funding for staffing costs for the new post-16 provision at Ashley School.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That School Forum

2.1 approve the funding of the costs of the staffing from April to September 2014 to support the development of post-16 provision at Ashley School.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1** Following a statutory consultation on 28th March 2013 the Executive Board of the Council agreed that Ashley School be re-designated Ashley as a school for vulnerable pupils with a diagnosis of Autism and those with social and communication needs who have moderate to high learning abilities. It was also agreed to extend provision from 16 to 19 years.
- 3.2** Although the 11-16 redesignation commenced in September 2013 it was agreed that to allow development of the facilities and the offer for post-16 that this would not commence until September 2014.
- 3.3** The capital programme to develop the post-16 facilities will be completed in May 2014 and work is currently being finalised on the Ashley offer for post-16. The provision will offer up to 42 post 16 places from 16-19 across three year groups.
- 3.4** To ensure that the provision is fully operational for September 2014 the school will need to employ a member of staff paid on TLR1 to manage and co-ordinate the new provision; three teachers and 3 teaching assistants. From September 2014 the costs of these new staff will be picked up from the schools budget however as staff need to be appointed to take up their posts after Easter 2014 School Forum are asked to fund the costs of these posts for one term only.

- 3.5** The estimated costs of the staffing for the summer term 2014 is in the region of £110,000. This is based on a teacher on the top of TLR 1 with an SEN allowance, 3 teaching staff at the top of the grade with SEN allowances and 3 teaching assistants on HBC 4 Scale 18 and SEN allowances.
- 3.6** School Forum are asked to fund this costs from the centrally held underspend contingency for the period April to September 2014.