

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum

**DATE:** 23 January 2017

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision

**SUBJECT:** Special Educational Needs Review

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** To provide an update to School Forum on the review of Special Educational Needs

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

- 1) Schools Forum consider the response to proposal to alter the allocation of enhanced provision/top up funding; and**
- 2) Agree the funding methodology for allocation of enhanced provision/top up funding for April 2017.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** Since Schools Forum in October 2016 there have been 3 further meetings of the SEN Review Group. One of the first key areas of focus of the group has been the arrangements and funding of Enhanced Provision/top up funding.
- 3.2** Members were provided with a detailed list of the allocations made to each school and setting in 2015/2016. This showed the level of funding allocated and also the variation in allocation between the schools/settings.
- 3.3** Concern was expressed about the equity, transparency and sustainability of the current arrangements particularly given the variation in allocation between schools and settings and the total sum of money allocated. It was suggested that the current allocation methodology linked to additional staffing hours was too rigid and more sustainable support could be provided if schools and settings could use the funding to access training and support or/and purchase resources. It was also felt that there needed to be a greater emphasis on supporting and developing young people to be independent.
- 3.4** Members felt that the current panel arrangements should continue but that the balance of members should be changed with more representation from schools and settings. It was agreed that it would be important to have

representatives from Finance at the panel meetings to provide advice and support.

3.5 A revised model for allocation of Enhanced Provision/Top Up Funding has now been circulated which proposes the following changes:

- Resources are not intended to reimburse the actual costs incurred but can be used to commission training to build capacity, purchase of resources, teaching or non-teaching support.
- Additional resources must be used to support individual pupils and to close the attainment gap and should be used to match the individual pupil's requirements
- Funding will only be approved for **one year**. Renewal will only be considered under exceptional circumstances and where the school can demonstrate the progress made with the previous investment.
- The composition of the current panel/s will include increased representation from schools/settings and a Finance representative.

3.6 Responses to the consultation need to be submitted by Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017. A copy of the consultation sent to schools and academies has been attached at Appendix A a separate consultation has been sent out to early years providers.

3.7 As this is a significant change it was suggested that a parents of pupils receiving additional support be invited to a consultation briefing on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

3.8 In addition, the consultation document has been included on the Local Offer.

3.9 The membership of the SEN Review Group includes the following:

- Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education, Inclusion & Provision - Chair
- Maraide Hurst – Warrington Road Nursery
- Sara Ainsworth - Brookfields
- Lesley Feakes - Simms Cross Primary
- Jeanette Vincent – The Grange School
- Nigel Hunt – The Bridge
- Jane Baker – Riverside College
- Alison Sutch – Halton NHS Clinical Commissioning Group

- Anita Parkinson – Divisional Manager Inclusion
- Paula Edwards – Inclusion
- Eileen O'Brien – Inclusion
- Julie Sumner /Angela Swift - Impart
- Sam Murtagh – HBC Commissioner
- Simon Bell – HBC Commissioner
- Kay Whitelaw and Sheila Hudson - School Nursing Representatives