

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 19 April 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT: High needs update
WARD: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the High Needs budget for 2018/2019.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) Applications for Enhanced Provision continue to be considered for the summer term 2018;**
- 2) A review is undertaken with a report to the Board in June; and**
- 3) The Board approve the reductions in central spend included in Appendix A.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 DEMAND and FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

Nationally the level of demand for support for pupils with special educational needs has been increasing over recent years. A TES article published in December 2017 reported that the projected funding gap in high needs nationally is more than three times what it was in 2014/2015. The increase in funding received by Local Authorities from Government has not kept pace with this increase in demand.

3.2 A recent survey undertaken by the Local Government Association showed that many local authorities found the funding allocated for High Needs provision by the Government (DFE) to be insufficient to meet needs. In addition to the increase in demand, the needs of children and young people with additional support requirements are becoming more complex and support has been extended by Government to cover children and young people from 0 to 25 years.

3.3 Further, until 2018/2019 it was permissible for LAs to move money between the different funding blocks that make up the Dedicated Schools Grant. Under new Government regulations only up to 0.5% can be transferred if approved by School Forum. In addition, in

previous years reserves have been used to fund the high needs overspend. The reserves have now all been fully committed.

3.4 The indicative budget for High Needs for 2018/2019 (following recouPMENT) is £14,156,649, with an estimated spend of £16,268,750, an estimated overspend of £2,112,101. A range of budget reductions were discussed and agreed at School Forum. These are listed in Appendix A, leaving still, a shortfall of over £220,000.

3.5 Out of the High Needs block Halton has provided top up funding support for individual pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans. It has also provided schools with the opportunity to put in applications for enhanced provision top up funding, a discretionary budget, which can, if the criteria are met, provide short term funding to support pupils who are not making sufficient progress.

3.6 PROPOSAL

a) From the reduced top up budget a commitment has been given to continue to support the costs of any existing and new Education, Health and Care Plans to fulfil our statutory responsibilities.

b) For Enhanced Provision top up support will continue for those already approved applications.

c) It is proposed to cease any new applications for Enhanced Provision immediately.

3.7 NEXT STEPS

However, in the light of representations received from local residents and Derek Twigg MP, the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder have asked that this proposal should be amended to allow :-

a) Applications for Enhanced Provision to be considered for the Summer Term; and

b) a review to be undertaken to consider the future funding of Enhanced Provision.

4.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Work is currently being undertaken to identify options for consideration to reduce the current funding gap of £220,000.

4.2 Continuing to offer Enhanced Provision through the summer term will increase further the funding gap.

4.3 Following a review a paper will be presented to Executive Board in June setting out the estimated shortfall and future funding options.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

It is important that children and young people with special educational needs receive the support they require to make progress.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The High Needs budget is insufficient to meet the demands for support for pupils with additional needs. Retaining the Enhanced provision will result in a budget overspend. The role and responsibility of schools and settings in meeting this additional need from within their own resources will be reviewed.

6.2 A more comprehensive review of SEND provision is being commissioned to commence within summer term.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Most children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities should receive support within their schools and setting's budget.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The national funding formula for schools and high needs (Policy document) September 2017	DFE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Ann McIntyre – Operational Director- Education, Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director - Resources
Schools Block National Funding Formula – Technical note (September 2017) Central School Services Block National Funding Formula - Technical note - (September 2017) High Needs Funding Formula – Technical note (September 2017)	DFE Website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources
School Forum agenda, papers and minutes	HBC website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources
Executive Board The national funding formula for schools and high needs – 16 th November 2017	HBC website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources