

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 14 June 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - People
PORTFOLIO: Children, Education and Social Care
SUBJECT: High needs update
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the available High Needs funding for 2018-19 and sets out a range of proposed budget reductions for 2018/2019 to meet the available funding envelope. In addition, we are asking for permission to consult partners on new guidance setting out the support for pupils with SEND.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the Board note the changes to the allocations in the High Needs Budgets, as set out in Paragraph 3.2, as a result of changes to funding made available by central Government; and**
- 2) approval is given to consult schools, parent and carer representatives on the Guidance for Supporting Pupils with SEND, to ensure additional support is determined by a Headteacher Panel and based on the specific needs of individual children.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 18th April 2018 it was reported that due to the increased demand for support for pupils with special educational needs, the level of complexity of some pupils and reduced flexibility to transfer money between the different funding blocks, Halton was facing a significant budget deficit of over £2.1 million in its High Needs Budget in 2018/2019.

3.2 Although a range of budget reductions were agreed, at the Board meeting on 18th April, based on the indicative High Needs budget, a shortfall of over £220,652 remains. To address this funding gap the following additional savings have been proposed:

Funding Area	Saving
SEND Commissioner Post	£21,000

Behaviour Support Team	£64,156
Home Tutors	£50,000
Inclusion Staffing and Supply and Services Reductions	£52,971
Reserves	£32,525
Total	£220,652

3.3 It was estimated that, unlike in previous years, where Halton has had a healthy reserve, once commitments had been allowed for, most of the reserves would be accounted for. Final figures for 2018/2019 now show that there will be a small balance of £153,754. It was intended to use this funding to contribute towards the funding gap in High Needs and support the discretionary support for schools. However, on 8th May 2018 the Education and Skills Funding Agency wrote to the LA, advising that in error they had over allocated the High Needs Block by £104,000 and would be looking to recoup this funding, reducing any balance to £49,754, of which £32,525 is required to balance the budget shortfall. It is proposed the remaining balance of £17,229 be used to support discretionary top up funding (enhanced provision).

3.4 The budget allocated to provide top up funding for both primary and secondary mainstream schools for 2018/2019 is £1million. This budget covers the costs of both Education, Health and Care Plans and Discretionary Top Up Funding (Enhanced Provision). A summary is provided below:

Total Top Up Budget	£1,000,000
Funding allocated in April 2018	£640,866
Additional In-Year Allocations	£42,975
Provision for future EHCP provision	£250,000
Provision for discretionary Support (Enhanced Provision)	£66,159

3.5 A total budget has now been identified of £83,388 for Discretionary Top up Funding (Enhanced Provision).

3.6 The current arrangements for supporting pupils with SEND have now been reviewed and a Guidance on Supporting pupils with SEND has been developed. (Appendix A). This documents sets out the roles and responsibilities of the different partners and the criteria for applying for discretionary support previously known as Enhanced Provision.

3.7 It is suggested that the ring fenced, cash limited budget for discretionary top up funding is delegated to a panel of head teachers or senior school staff from both the Primary and Secondary sector. LA Officers will attend the meeting but in an advisory capacity.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A request has been made to the Secretary of State to disapply the minimum funding guarantee for Special Schools in 2018/2019. If this request is not approved a further £169,300 will need to be found.
- 4.2 The contingency provision allocated to fund additional pupils placed in Halton's special schools has now been allocated. Further demand will lead to a budget overspend.
- 4.3 If the level of demand for placing pupils in independent provision continues to increase the current budget provision will be insufficient.

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 Guidance for supporting pupils with SEND clarifies the role and responsibility of schools, the LA and the criteria for application for additional discretionary funding.
- 6.2 An independent review of SEND provision in Halton commenced on 24th May 2018 and is expected to be concluded by the end of September 2018.

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 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

8.1 The increased demand for support for pupils with special educational needs, the level of complexity of some pupils and reduced flexibility to transfer money between the different funding blocks leading to a budget deficit.

9.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9.1 To cease Enhanced Provision funding.

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

10.01 1 September 2018.

11.0 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	HBC website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education

minutes		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
Executive Board High Needs Update 18 th April 2018	HBC website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources