

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 20 September 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education and Social Care

SUBJECT Foundation/KS1 Social, Emotional and Mental Health Resource Base Provision

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the responses received during the representation period to the statutory consultation to create Resource Base provision for Foundation/KS1 pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties at Beechwood Primary School and Halton Lodge Primary School.
- 1.2 The report also outlines the decision making process which needs to be followed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) Foundation/KS1 Social, Emotional and Mental Health Resource Provision Base is developed at Beechwood Primary School;**
- 2) Foundation/KS1 Social, Emotional and Mental Health Resource Base is developed at Halton Lodge Primary School;**
- 3) Specialist Provision Capital funding is used to provide the facilities required for the two bases; and**
- 4) the revenue costs of the new provision will be met from the High Needs budget.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the Executive Board meeting on 14th June 2018 it was agreed that a statutory consultation could be undertaken on the proposal to create a Resource Base for Foundation/KS1 Pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties at Beechwood Primary School and Halton Lodge Primary School.

- 3.2 A statutory notice was published on 27th June 2018 for each school with a 4 week consultation period which closed on 25th July 2018. It was advertised in the local press and distributed to schools and settings, along with the link to the feedback form. Copies were shared with parents, staff and governors of the school, trade unions, neighbouring authorities, Diocesan authorities, health, primary schools, pre-schools Halton NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, parent carer representatives, the local MP and local Elected Members. All respondents were given the opportunity to complete the feedback form on line.
- 3.3 The statutory notice and the feedback form were placed on the website. A staff and governors meeting was held at each school followed by a parent and public meeting. The meeting date for Halton Lodge was Monday, 2nd July 2018 and for Wednesday, 4th July 2018. The notes from both meetings are attached at Appendix A and Appendix B.
- 3.6 At the close of consultation 13 responses had been received to the Beechwood statutory notice and 10 responses were received to the Halton Lodge statutory proposal. In addition, the governing body of both schools supported the proposal. A further response was received from an Elected Member supporting the addition to provision in the borough but asking about the provision in Widnes and expressing concern about the travel and accessibility to public transport. It was explained that all schools that met the criteria were invited to put in an expression of interest. Five schools were then interviewed from which two schools were selection. The selection was based on their vision and the quality of their offer not their location. Any transport arrangements would be made in line with the Sustainable School Transport Policy.
- 3.7 Of the 13 responses to Beechwood 10 agreed to the proposal and 3 disagreed please see Appendix C. A summary of the issues raised by those who responded but did not agree were as follows:
- There is already stress on many children to get better exam results;
 - There have been a number of changes and a big staff turnover in recent times;
 - Happiness of current staff and children needs considering; and
 - Standards and recent OFSTED report.

Beechwood Primary School was graded as Good when inspected by OFSTED in December 2015. In the report OFSTED state that “Leaders have established a happy and stimulating environment where pupils develop an enthusiasm for learning and grow in confidence. The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good. Relationships between pupils and staff are extremely positive. The new staff recruited to Beechwood as some staff moved on in 2017 are enthusiastic and fully committed to the school.

- 3.8 It is therefore recommended that the Foundation/KS1 Social, Emotional and Mental Health Resource Base is developed at Beechwood Primary School.
- 3.9 A total of 10 responses were received to Halton Lodge Primary proposal. Governors supported the proposal and 4 responses indicated they were in support. These responses included the senior leaders at the school. 6 responses were did not support the proposal please see Appendix D. A summary of the issues raised by those who responded but did not agree were as follows:
- There was concern expressed about the funding of the SEMH Resource Base and whether this would impact on the school resources. The funding for the bases will be in addition to the schools delegated budget. If a pupil is on roll at the school at the census date the school will receive a per pupils figure through their budget plus £6k additional place funding. They will then receive the appropriate amount of top up to ensure that they can meet the costs of the staff in the base
 - Some staff were anxious about providing cover for the base. The Headteacher is planning to ensure that all staff receive the appropriate training as part of the preparation for the new provision. There will be a range of support available to the school through the Behaviour Support Team, Educational Psychologists and Specialist Teachers;
 - It was also intimated that the children within the Resource Provision base could have a negative impact on mainstream pupils. The Headteacher of the school is committed to maximising the positive impact that having a resource provision within the school will have on all pupils and staff; and
 - There was also concern about the extra pressure that would be placed on the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator in school. The school will be looking to recruit 2 additional experienced and qualified staff to work with the students in the base and there will be support available from the LA.
- 3.10 It is therefore recommended that the Foundation/KS1 Social, Emotional and Mental Health Resource Base is developed at Halton Lodge Primary School and that the Senior Leadership of the school respond to the concerns raised during the consultation and ensure the appropriate support and training for staff.

4.0 DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- 4.1 The decision-maker (Executive Board) must decide the proposal within two months of the end of the representation period otherwise the decision must be referred to the Adjudicator for a decision. Any appeal to the adjudicator must be made within four weeks of the decision.

4.2 The decision-maker can decide to:

- Reject the proposals;
- Approve the proposals without modification;
- Approve the proposals with a modification; and
- Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition.

4.3 Within one week of making the decision it must be published with the reasons for decision on the website alongside the proposal. Copies must also be sent to:

- The LA where the Schools Adjudicator is the decision-maker;
- The Schools Adjudicator where the LA is the decision maker;
- Local C of E Diocese;
- The local Roman Catholic diocese; and
- Any other appropriate body.

4.4 Within one week of the decision being made the LA should make the necessary changes to the school's record on the Department for Education EduBase system and must, in any circumstance, make the change by the date of implementation.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Special Provision Capital of £500k will be used to fund the building alternations needed to both schools to create the appropriate accommodation for the base.

5.2 The revenue costs of the base will provide the school with funding to meet the costs of the additional staff and building costs. The funding is set out below:

- The school will receive the per pupil funding in their delegated budget for any pupil in the resource provision base on the school census – they will then receive a sum of £6k from the High Needs budget plus the relevant top up funding;
- If the school has any vacant places at census the school will receive a sum of £10k per pupil plus the relevant top up.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Supporting pupils with SEMH in local schools is more inclusive as it allows pupils to be educated within their own community and alongside their peer group.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The bases will provide support for pupils with social emotional and mental health difficulties.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The number of pupils identified with SEMH has been increasing in recent years and pupils are being identified at a younger age. Many schools are struggling to provide the appropriate support and this has led to increasing numbers of primary exclusions, increasing demand on special schools and increasing numbers of pupils in independent or Out of Borough specialist provision.

7.2 A new Behaviour Support Team will commence during the Autumn Term 2018. This service will work with schools to promote more inclusive practice, develop the skills and capacity of their staff and support schools to develop a positive approach to SEMH and behaviour management.

7.3 The Foundation/Key Stage 1 bases will support those pupils with more complex SEMH. The bases will provide a nurturing and supportive environment and in most cases allow the pupils to gradually transition to mainstream provision.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 This proposal is aimed at ensuring Foundation/Key Stage 1 pupils with SEMH can be educated within their own local community and is therefore more inclusive.

8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken on this proposal.

9.0 REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 Provide a more inclusive offer for pupils with SEMH giving them the opportunity to be educated with support alongside their peers.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 Developing only one Foundation/Key Stage 1 SEMH Base and one secondary base was considered. No secondary schools expressed an interest in providing an SEMH base.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The implementation date is September 2018.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Statutory Notice	HBC Website	ann.mcintyre@halton.gov.uk
Executive Board Report 14 th June 2018	As above	As above
Summary of consultation responses	Rutland House	As above