

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 21 January 2014

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

SUBJECT: EAL Service Report January 2014
Review of the English as an Additional Language Service commissioned from St Chad’s High School

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To review the SLA to provide EAL support to Halton schools, and for Halton School Forum to make a decision about sustaining this funding beyond March 2014.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That School Forum continue to support the provision of the centrally based EAL service provided by St Chad’s at a cost of £146,828 for 2014/2015

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Since September 2004 there has been a significant increase in the number of children residing in Halton with English as an Additional Language Needs referred for support:

- In order to address these issues School Forum was approached in 2007 to seek to fund an EAL service from the Designated Schools Grant. School Forum agreed to make available £146828 which was the estimated cost of running a small service.
 - St Chad’s Specialist Language College expressed an interest in being commissioned to provide an EAL Service. The school has access to a wide range of staff who speak a range of languages and saw this work as an extension of their specialist status. An SLA was entered into with this school.
 - The LA worked with the school to develop a specification for the service and the SLA has been in place since April 2008 with the service available to schools since September 2008.

3.2 The key aspects of the support by the EAL service across Halton schools are:

- a) Offering support and advice to school staff on issues relating to working with EAL pupils
- b) Carrying out an initial assessment of the pupils' language development needs in first and second language.
- c) Monitoring and tracking the progress of EAL pupils and identifying where individual intervention would enhance learning, progress and attainment. Keeping records of progress of all EAL pupils.
- d) Supporting individual pupils and groups of pupils with their learning of English in the school setting to enable them to access the curriculum and make age-appropriate progress. Undertaking individual teaching where appropriate.
- e) Providing an opportunity for EAL pupils to express their concerns and issues in their first language and offering support and advice.
- f) Contributing to the success of pupil attainment in Halton.
- g) Providing school-family liaison, facilitating meetings including parents' evenings and translating important documents such as school reports.
- h) Supporting EAL pupils in transition from pre-school to reception, from KS2 to KS3 and from KS4 to post 16 provision.
- i) Providing INSET to schools according need eg NQT and ITT training.
- j) Liaising with schools and other agencies on safeguarding issues.
- k) Providing support to secondary schools so that EAL pupils are able to access examinations in the first language.
- l) Promoting community cohesion through cultural diversity activities.

3.3 The service has been running since September 2008 with three full-time members of staff. The service is currently supporting 307 EAL pupils speaking 23 different home languages in school settings across Halton. There are also 45 EAL children in pre-school settings across the LA who are known to the service. The service is currently working on a weekly basis in 16 primaries and in 6 secondary schools and providing support and guidance to most of the other schools in Halton. The service provides outstanding support for EAL pupils and this is reflected in the attainment of EAL pupils at key points in their school career. It is the belief of the steering group that this SLA offers good value for money and delivers the service in a cost effective way.

Debbie Burke: Deputy Headteacher at St Chad's

Anna Aleksic: EAL co-ordinator