

**Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children, Young Peoples and Families Policy and Performance Board**

---

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2018**

<b>EXB42</b>	<b>LAND ACQUISITION FOR A SPECIAL FREE SCHOOL BID FOR PUPILS WITH SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS – KEY DECISION</b>
--------------	--

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the application process for a special free school for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH).

It was reported that in July 2018, the Department for Education invited local authorities to make application to establish special or alternative provision for free schools in their borough. To give a regional footprint to specialist provision, guidance encouraged authorities to seek partners in neighbouring authorities as part of the bid.

The Board was advised that local authorities were responsible for securing provision for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC), funded from their high needs budget. Halton and St Helens Councils had identified insufficient provision for pupils with SEMH issues and as a result, had placed pupils in expensive independent provision. This meant that many pupils were educated away from their local community, travelling long distances to school, which in turn impacted on their ability to develop friendships; it also reduced the opportunity for transition back into mainstream education.

It was therefore proposed that Halton and St Helens Councils submit a bid to open a co-educational, special free school which would offer a quality educational experience for fifty pupils with SEMH, as well as catering for a range of other issues including Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

**Reason(s) for Decision**

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

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

Not submitting an application for a joint free school. However, lack of provision had an impact on the educational outcomes of pupils that need the support.

### Implementation Date

Notification as to whether the bid had been successful would be announced by the DfE in Spring 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approve an application to establish a new joint special free school in Halton shared with St Helens Borough Council; and
- 2) agree the location of the school within Halton.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2018**

<b>EXB58</b>	<b>THE FUNDING FORMULA FOR MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS AND HIGH NEEDS FOR 2019-20</b>
--------------	--

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the funding formula for mainstream schools and high needs for 2019/20.

The Board was advised that in July 2017, the Secretary of State confirmed the introduction of the national funding formula, used by the Department for Education to calculate the Schools Block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant allocated to Halton. However, this arrangement had been deferred for a year until April 2021. As a result, each local authority area had to consider which formula to use to fund mainstream schools in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

It was noted that, after consultation with schools and Schools Forum, Halton mainstream schools and academies would move to the National Funding Formula with transitional protection for 2018/19.

A report highlighting key changes to the funding of mainstream schools was presented to the meeting of the Schools Forum on 10 October 2018.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

To ensure that there was a fair distribution of resources across the schools in the Borough and that the needs of the children and young people with special educational needs could be met.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to either the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Budget to the High Needs Budget or no transfer. Both of these options were rejected as they would not provide sufficient funding to address the high needs funding gap.

### Implementation Date

1 April 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approve the continuation of the National Funding Formula for 2019/20 with transitional protection; and
- 2) note the decision to transfer 1% from the Schools Budget to High Needs Block and the requirement to submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for Education.