

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum

**DATE:** 18 June 2020

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision

**SUBJECT:** High Needs Summary 2020-2021

**WARDS:** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide the Forum with a summary of the commitments to the High Needs budget for 2020-2021

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

**2.1 Note the High Needs allocation for 2020-2021;**

**2.2 Support the budget allocation for 2020-2021; and**

**2.3 Request an update on High Needs expenditure at each School Forum meeting.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The total High Needs allocation for Halton is £19,063,244. This is sum allocated to the local authority to support pupils and students aged 0 to 24 with high needs. The funding available covers the following:

- Maintained mainstream school (pre-16 places in special units and resourced provision and post-16 high needs places)
- Maintained special schools
- Pupil referral units
- Mainstream academies and free schools (pre-16 in special units and resource provision and post-16 high needs places)
- Special academies (pre-16 and post-16)
- Special free schools (pre-16 and post-16 places)
- Alternative provision academies
- Further education institutions and independent learning providers (post-16 places only)

- AP free schools (pre-16 places, excluding those at schools opened during 2019 to 2020 or 2020 to 2021 academic years)
- Top-up funding for pupils and students in special post-16 institutions and non-maintained special schools
- All funding for children and young people placed in independent schools, independent AP (unless the places are commissioned directly by schools) and hospital education; and finally
- Funding for central high needs services and budgets.

3.2 The budget allocated to the local authority includes both import and export adjustments so that the funding reflects which local authority area pupils and students are educated.

3.3 Recoupment is also made by the EFSA for pupils and students in academies and free schools. In Halton this is a sum of £2,906,662 giving a net total budget of £16,156,582.

3.4 Detailed below in table 1 is the local authority allocation. Table 2 and Table 3 show the proposed allocation of this funding for 2020-2021.

**Table 1**

<b>High Needs Block 2020-21</b>				
				£
Grant allocation				19,063,244.00
Recoupment				- 2,906,662.00
<b>HN Grant to HBC</b>				<b>16,156,582.00</b>

**Table 2**

<b>High Needs Block 2020-21</b>				
				£
Special Schools				5,206,850.00
Resource Bases				1,186,633.00
PRU				1,500,000.00
Top-up funding				
	EHCP		1,020,000.00	
	Discretionary		80,000.00	
	Resource Bases		30,000.00	
	Special Schools/PRU		116,667	
	PRU Outreach		53,333	
				1,300,000.00
Staffing, incl SEND Commissioner				1,548,660.00
SEMH Team				334,660.00
Supplies & Services				102,820.00
Independent Special Schools				2,412,450.00
Inter Authority Recoupment				175,000.00
Post 16 Provision				969,000.00
Specialist Equipment				20,000.00
HN Contingency				1,400,509.00
	<b>Total HN allocated</b>			<b>16,156,582.00</b>

**Table 3**

<b>£</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
£ 760,000.00	For expected overspend on Independent and Non-Maintained Special School placements
£ 200,000.00	For expected overspend on other LA maintained schools top-up funding etc.
£ 200,000.00	For expected overspend on top-up funding, including special schools, resource bases (following review)
£ 102,000.00	For Ashley satellite school, 7/12ths from September 2020 for 7 pupils
£ 78,000.00	For extra Brookfields satellite school, 7/12ths from September 2020 for 7 pupils
£ 60,509.00	To support the processing and improvements to EHCPs
<b>£ 1,400,509.00</b>	<b>Total High Needs Contingency as presented to Schools Forum</b>

- 3.5 Table 3 sets out the proposed use of the contingency for 2020-2021 and shows a significant sum allocated for independent provision, funding for the expansion and continuation of satellite provision at Brookfields and the establishment of satellite provision for Ashley. Finally, an allocation has been set aside to support the changes required to restructure the support provided for Education, Health and Care Plans.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Through supporting schools to become more inclusive, streamlining the assessment arrangements and revising the offer of our specialist provision, including the PRU, it is hoped that we will be better able to meet the needs of Halton pupils through our local provision. Improving the EHCP process and providing more support from specialist settings should ensure more children and young people can be educated the borough, improving outcomes and reducing costs.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 There is a lack of specialist provision within the Borough to meet the needs of children and young people with high needs. High numbers of

children are being educated in independent provision with many pupils having to travel outside the borough to access provision. This is not in their best interest and is not sustainable

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 Improving the EHCP process and providing the more specialist support as well as sharing the knowledge and expertise of specialist settings with mainstream schools should mean that we can improve the quality of SEND provision within the borough, the outcomes of children and young people with SEND and encourage all our schools to become more inclusive.