

High Needs Block Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
2nd November 2018 11.30am at Alex House

Members

Martin Doyle: Headteacher Riverside School – Chair
Phil di Leo: Governor The Vale
+ Tony Hartney: Chair, Schools Forum
Peter Catling: Headteacher Woodlands Park NS&CC
+ Melian Mansfield: Pembury House Chair of Governors
Mike McKenzie: Headteacher Alexandra Park School
Will Wawn: Primary Heads Rep

Also Present

Vikki Monk-Meyer: Head of Service: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
+ Kamaljit Kaur: Schools Finance Manager
Janet Miller: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Ngozi Anuforo: Head of Strategic Commissioning, Early Help & Culture
+ Jean Brown: Governor The Vale
Sarah Hargreaves: Clerk
+ Denotes absence

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and acceptance

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence have been received from Kamaljit Kaur, Jean Brown and Melian Mansfield. Tony Hartney was not in attendance.
- 1.3 It was confirmed that Phil di Leo is a member of this Committee.

2. Minutes of 17th September 2018

- 2.1 The minutes were **agreed** as a correct record of the meeting. Signed by the Chair and returned to Vikki for filing.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1 Pt 4.7 Letters were sent from the primary and secondary Heads. The Secretary of State has responded. Cllr Dan Stone is interested in using these for political ends.
- 3.2 Pt 5.1 Riverside's 14-19 provision now has 9 new pupils.
- 3.3 Pt 6.5 There is no update yet on the CAMHs project.

4. Feedback from points raised at EFSA meeting & actions

- 4.1 Vikki reported that the meeting with the EFSA had gone ahead. They were pleased to see the good early work undertaken to try and prevent the deficit increasing. "Non recurrent spend" has been removed and the staffing budget reduced. However, the on-going increase in demand for post 16 places is wiping out any savings.
- 4.2 It is possible that there will be little extra demand for places, (other than post 16's).
- 4.3 The CoNEL issue is on-going. There are also issues with the Camden funding. All boroughs report receiving different answers from the EFSA. *Members suggested a joint meeting between all the affected boroughs and the EFSA; someone has the money owed and it would not be advantageous if they got used to have it and then had to re-pay it.* The Chair will speak to Mike McKenzie and Kamaljit Kaur about suitable people to speak to.

Action Chair

- 4.4 The population has increased in Haringey, but the SEN figures used to set the budget aren't up to date. There will be a re-adjustment in Jan/Feb '19.

11.50am Will Warn joined the meeting.

- 4.4.1 It was noted that the previous transfer from the Schools Block has made the situation more complicated.

- 4.5 It was confirmed that schools receive £6,000 from the HNB and £4,000 AWPU for each place. Kamaljit will be asked to check each school's AWPU allocation against the list of funding pupils.

Action KK

It was noted that for some schools, eg, The Vale, their PAN admissions numbers are lower due to taking SEN pupils. This will affect their 2019/20 funding.

- 4.5.1 Vikki to check if pupils in independent schools are included.

Action VMM

- 4.5.2 "P" Levels are now called "Pre-Entry Levels."

- 4.6 The EFSA appear to understand that increasing the age range from 21 to 25 has caused issues. Students placed in colleges are not necessarily achieving the required outcomes and so colleges don't want to continue their places.

- 4.7 The EFSA were interested to see that Haringey had been able to use money from Early Years. They wondered if EY had been over funded. It was **agreed** that it was important the EFSA were aware that this had been one off funding for 2 year old places and there was not additional money available to fund places. Vikki to ensure that they understand this.

Action VMM

- 4.7.1 It was noted that it is possible to use the funding from either HNB or EY. Different boroughs do it in different ways. *Members suggested that Vikki spoke to other boroughs to see how they are tackling the funding shortfall.*

Action VMM

- 4.8 The EFSA say that costs are rising nationally (using ONS data), but that it can be hard to compare accurately as different intakes are being compared. In Haringey the savings made have been wiped out by cuts and the expenditure needed for the additional place demands. Overall the budget is £33m.

- 4.9 Current additional places stand at:

Riverside 9

The Grove 10

The Vale and The Brooke have also increased their places

A few voluntary sector and independent places have reduced.

Top-ups of £27,000 are paid to The Grove as a new setting with start up costs.

- 4.9.1 Other special school settings receive either £10,000, £13,000 or £22,000 in top-ups.

- 4.10 Some colleges are asking for between £20-30,000 in top-ups. This costs more than the £22,000 which was paid when the student was attending special school. There is a risk that if colleges do not get what they say they need they tend to turn parents and young people away; especially when the student has an EHCP.

- 4.10.1 *It was felt that collective bargaining by LAs would be useful in dealing with the colleges, in order to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources.* Vikki will speak to Camden, Islington and Enfield to see if there are common areas of concern.

Action VMM

- 4.10.2 Vikki confirmed that the bandings are locally determined. If the bands are circulated to the colleges they will be able to see what they are likely to be paid and why.

Action VMM

Once the bandings are agreed a ceiling should be set and the colleges informed. This will work best if the other LAs follow a similar course of action.

- 4.10.3 Additionally it would be useful if the Headteachers and SENCOs at the school(s) the pupils are leaving could see the requests being put in by the colleges as they will know what level of support the student actually needs.

- 4.10.4 Colleges are not funding physical adaptations to their buildings.

- 4.11 A "Corporate Contribution" of 7% of the budget (£300,000) will be requested from April 2019.

5. Re-visiting uplift to TA rates

- 5.1 It is proposed to offer a 1%- 2% salary uplift for support staff backdated to 1st September 2018. This will incur an overall cost of £55,000 – £110,000. This had been agreed previously but then was not possible to implement due to the worsened year end position. After discussion this was **agreed**.

6. Review capital spend and developments

- 6.1 There is a need to show the DfE how the capital grant is being spent before extra SEND capital can be drawn down. The original plan was to spend it on the local offer for 18-21 year olds; then the SEMH provision and finally discussions around early years. There is £650,000 in total.
- 6.2 Vikki confirmed that the Octagon re-building works are not going ahead, so this needs re-thinking
- 6.3 The Vale requires works to be undertaken but members enquired *whether these should be paid for out of the Property and Contracts Health & Safety budget*. The EFSA is only interested in the total being spent, not where the money is coming from. It was noted that the Vale works won't result in any increase in places available. The EFSA will want to see that alternative funding sources have been discussed and so see who else is contributing towards projects.
- 6.4.1 It was **agreed** that the Capital Working Party, consisting of Martin Doyle, Vikki Monk-Meyer, Peter Catling and Ngozi Anuforo should re-form. **Action MD, VMM, PC, NA**
- 6.4.2 This should also link into the school place planning and general capital strategies meetings.

7. Alternative Provisions Review

- 7.1 Claire Warner has been appointed as interim cover to replace Deborah Tucker from next week.
- 7.2 There are another 2 years to run on the contract with TBAP. They are contracted to run The Octagon until August 2019. Ngozi to provide details of the costs of this contract. **Action NA**
- 7.3 Members asked *how AP was working in other boroughs*; this is something which Claire Warner will be working on. It appears that some boroughs are struggling to place pupils because of the nature of their needs. Especially young people at risk of violence, exclusion and entry into the criminal justice system. A review of who is excluded in secondary schools will be undertaken.
- 7.4 It was felt that there is a need to look at what has been commissioned and to compare it to what has been delivered. Both TBAP and The Octagon to be looked at.
- 7.5 The land has been leased to TBAP for 99 years; but it goes with the commission and so if a different provider was brought in it would transfer to the new provider. If TBAP were to lose their Academy Order they would have to hand the land back.
- 7.6 It was **agreed** that any capital expenditure made will have to meet the needs of the service.

8. AOB

- 8.1 The High Needs Block continue to be overspent.
- 8.2 The School Grant is to stay within the schools. There is currently a consultation out on 3 options to top-slice the DSG for 2019-20 for the HNB budget; 0%, 0.25% or 0.5%. It is likely that the answer will be 0% or 0.25%. The decision will be made in January 2019.
- 8.2.1 It was **agreed** that weighting for lower prior attainment has to be funded in full and not just factored into the formula.

9. Date of next meeting

- 9.1 It was **agreed** that meetings should be 2 weeks before SF pre-meetings.
- 9.2 The next meeting will be on **10th December, 11.30am-1pm at Alex House, Level 2 Room 4**. There being no further business the meeting ended at **1.10pm**.

Signed

Date