

High Needs Block Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
1st March 2019 11.30am at Alex House

School Forum Members

Martin Doyle: Headteacher Riverside School – Chair
+ 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 Invited

Vikki Monk-Meyer: Head of Service: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Phil di Leo: Governor The Vale
Shamila Ganeshalingam: Finance Officer
+ Janet Miller: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
+ Ngozi Anuforo: Head of Strategic Commissioning, Early Help & Culture
+ Jean Brown: Governor The Vale
+ Paul Durrant – Finance
+ Gill Gibson - AD
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 Melian Mansfield.

2/3. Minutes of 8th February 2019 & Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes will be taken at the next meeting as this meeting is specifically about capital projects. **Action Clerk**

4. Use of the SEN Capital Grant

- 4.1 It was noted that the capital grant is £1.1m, available over 4-5 years. This includes the money claimed in 2018 for the Riverside school developments. This means that there is now £212,000 available to claim for each year 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21.
- 4.2 In December 2018 the EFA added additional money to the 2019 pot.
- 4.3 It is necessary to show that projects have been devised following collaboration and consultation with stakeholders and parents.
- 4.4 There is currently insufficient time to go to Cabinet to ask about applying for it, otherwise the application deadline will have passed.
- 4.5 Match funding is required, but it does not have to be to the same amount. Funding has been identified.
- 4.6 The building works can be seen as work in progress and can be counted as match funding.
- 4.7 Initially the funds had to be used to create school places, but this is no longer the case. Therefore it can be used to increase accessibility to services. The aim is to maximise the impact of funding provided.
- 4.8 The income is not yet showing in the accounts. SG to chase the finance team. **Action SG**

- 4.9 It was noted that the reduction in the Free for 2's funding from £6ph to £5.66 will adversely affect young children, some of whom will be disabled. This reduction in funding will challenge the viability of settings, especially in the PVI sector. Those who do survive may not be able to offer 2 year old places. When questioned 75% of settings said that they would be adversely affected. It is estimated that there are 850 2 year olds in the borough.
- 4.9.1 It has been estimated that the budget shortfall will be £340,000 for 2 year old places. Further details are however still needed, for example, where are the places. If funding was to be provided settings would also need to recognise that there could not be an on-going commitment to closing/partially closing the funding gap.
- 4.9.2 It was understood that funding of £85,000pa for 2 years would help to cover 50% of the funding gap. However, due to other likely commitments a total of £140,000 is likely to be more realistic. Possibly £90,000 in the 1st year and £50,000 in the 2nd.
- 4.9.3 It may also be possible to fund alternative activities within the EY block which would free up other monies to fund the 2 year old places. VMM to speak to Ngozi. **Action VMM**
- 4.9.4 Vikki to check whether the funding has to be used for new activities; this will impact on how it can be used in conjunction with the EY Block. **Action VMM**

5. Other possible projects

- 5.1 The Grove will be transitioning over a number of years from St Marys and Heartlands, which will require adaptation funding, likely to be around £75,000. Details are needed from the Capital Team on how the money has been spent to date. **Action GS**
- 5.2 The Vale requires works to be undertaken, plus equipment and therapy facilities (£120,000).
- 5.3 The survey of parent's needs should be considered closely. **Action MD, VMM**
- 5.3.1 Ideas which have been received so far from parents are:
 A tracking hoist and an easier to open door for the Markfield project (£15,000)
 Security for orthodox Jewish settings - Respite providers (especially for Seven Sisters ward) (£15,000)
 Accessible toilets in parks (£15,000 each, 1 in each of the East & West)
- 5.4 Other possibilities include:
 Refurbishment works for St Mary's when other users move out so that it is suitable for SEMH users (£10,000)
 £100,000 to be set aside for identifying and kitting out a secondary age SEMH provision.
 A medical needs provision; which may be an ICT solution, rather than an actual building, to be paid out of the 2020-21 instalment. mental health, medical and office base for 5-16 year olds (£150,000)
 Outreach in children centres; to provide a hub to support PVIs with soft play and other activities for SEND children (£60,000).
- 5.5 In the 3rd year primary and secondary PRU provision (£100,000 + £10,000), 60% of the community hub funding and £75,000 of the medical needs.
- 5.6 LA place funding could act as match funding.
- 5.7 Further work on these ideas will be undertaken. Figures and a narrative to be provided. The table will then be shared with parents and the LA will be approached regarding further top-up funding.

Project	Lead Person	Indicative Costs £
Markfield: hoist & door	VMM	15,000
Step by Step	VMM	15,000
Toilets in parks	VMM & Simon Farrow	30,000
The Grove	VMM	75,000
The Vale	Phil di Leo & The Vale	120,000
Two year old funding	Peter Catling & EY Quality Team	140,000
Children Centres Hub provision	Peter Catling & EY Quality Team	60,000
PRU/SEMH provision	Charlotte Pomeroy & Ngozi Anuforo	110,000
Medical Needs	VMM	150,000 (2 x 75,000)
Total to date		715,000

nb. Further work needs to be done on post 16's and accessibility e.g. courses/post 16 settings, potential IT solutions around supporting people with autism and Learning Disabilities in the community. £1.1 million – 375,000 already spent on Riverside = £725,000. £10,000 available for IT solutions?

6. AOB

6.1 No items.

7. Date of next meeting

7.1 It was **agreed** that meetings should be 2 weeks before SF pre-meetings.

7.2 The next meeting will be on **3rd April (changed from 5th April), 12.30pm at Alex House L2 Rm 4.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at **1.30pm.**

Signed

Date