

High Needs Block Committee

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2021 at 9.30am via Teams

Schools Forum Members

Martin Doyle: Headteacher Riverside School – Chair
+ 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
+ Gerry Robinson: Alternative Provision
+ Kurt Hintz: CoNEL

Also Invited

Mary Jarrett: Integrated Head of Service
Phil di Leo: Governor The Vale
+ Tony Hartney: Chair, Schools Forum
Kristian Bugnosen: Principal Finance Officer
+ Ngozi Anuforo: Commissioning Manager

Attending

Robin Hindley: CoNEL

Sarah Hargreaves: Senior Governance Officer

+ Denotes absence

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and acceptance

- 1.1 The Chair (Martin Doyle) welcomed everyone present to the meeting. He welcomed Robin Hindley who is attending for Kurt Hintz.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence have been received from Peter Catling and Ngozi Anuforo.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 23rd April 2021

- 2.1 The minutes were **agreed** as a correct record of the meeting. They will be signed and returned for safe keeping when this is next possible.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1 Pt 3.3 The banding descriptors and top-up funding will be included in the SEND Strategy which Mary is writing. Latest version to be circulated. **Action MJ, Clerk**
- 3.2 Pt 4 The latest Early Years Forum minutes will be circulated once they have been agreed. **Action Clerk**
- 3.3 Pt 7.3 Mary confirmed that she attends the SEND Executive and will share the minutes. **Action MJ**

4. DfE Comparator Information

- 4.1 The number of EHCPs in Haringey is less than in the 5 statistical neighbours but higher than the national average. There are around 2,500 under 25's with Plans.
- 4.2 There are less SEND pupils in mainstream schools and maintained special schools compared to England, London and neighbouring areas.
- 4.2.1 Haringey has fewer SEND pupils in school based 6th Forms than elsewhere. Other places have 6th forms in special schools and so pupils stay there. In Haringey they are more likely to move to

the 6th Form Centre and so are counted differently for DfE returns. (Specialist –v- non specialist provision). CoNEL is counted as post 16's provision and not a 6th Form.

- 4.3 There are more 16-18's with EHCPs than elsewhere. Plans are not ceased until 18, at least, as Year 11 is not the school leaving age.
- 4.4 In Lewisham, Islington and Enfield the joint funding, with Health, for 16-25's has been stopped as it was felt that they were still receiving education. They are then moved to adult funding and their Plan continues.
- 4.5 Haringey has more EHCP's and less apprenticeships or internships than elsewhere and students stay in more generic provision.
- 4.5.1 Robin reported that of the North Middlesex hospital apprenticeships, which are open to both Haringey and Enfield residents, last year there were 11 pupils from Enfield but only 3 from Haringey. There therefore needs to be more Haringey buy-in. Mary said that the statutory assessment team is currently being re-structured but this is something that the new team will be following up on more.
- 4.6 It was **agreed** that better pathways out of education services are needed. Martin and Robin will discuss further. **Action MD, RH**
- 4.6.1 There needs to be more confidence in ending Plans which are no longer needed.
- 4.7 Robin said that a new Head of School for 18-25's has been appointed by CoNEL and he will be working on these issues.
- 4.8 *It was thought that a post 19 provision map may be more useful than a post 16 one.*
- 4.9 It was **agreed** that compared to the 5 statistical neighbours Haringey was fairing well. In particular the support of pupils with complex needs in mainstream schools is good.
- 4.10 The high costs of independent placements are included in the SEND strategy. Overall Haringey spends less on out borough placements than other boroughs.
- 4.11 The gap in provision continues to be in the lack of SEMH provision.

5. Draft Terms of Reference

- 5.1 The draft has been circulated.
- 5.2 They were **agreed**.

6. Recovery Plan

- 6.1 There is consensus that the HNB should not be paying for Early Help services going forward. This assumption will be included in the detailed recovery plan which is about to be written.
- 6.2 Ann Graham has met with the DfE and EFSA regarding a national template for recovery plans.
- 6.2.1 There will need to be a child by child analysis of where money should be spent and where it could be saved.
- 6.3 *Members asked if the withdrawal of funding from Early Help will be a one off event or a tapered reduction.* This is not known currently but it needs to be known in order to inform the recovery plan. Mary to clarify. **Action MJ**
- 6.4 The recovery plan, once written, will need to be signed off by School Forum.
- 6.5 *Members asked if Early Help would be refunding the deficit so that services do not need to be cut.* Mary pointed out that not all of the deficit is due to Early Help expenditure and also that most of the money which was transferred to Early Help was in fact spent on SEND pupils.

7. SEND Strategy

- 7.1 Mary said that there is work to be done around co-production with families, particularly regarding the transition to adulthood. Opportunities to be involved will be advertised in the SEND Families Newsletter. **Action MJ**

- 7.2 It will need to go out to consultation and will then go to Cabinet. The stakeholders who will be included in the consultation are:
 Primary Heads, Secondary Heads, Special Schools, The Markfield Project, School SENDCOs, Early Years Inclusion Team, Early Years SENDCO meeting. It will also go to all parents of SEND pupils (an information session will also be run for them), Governor briefings.
- 7.2.1 It was noted that there will be a conference for special school governors in the autumn and it would be useful for the consultation to be on the agenda. **Action HEP**
- 7.3 *Members asked if early years will be included in the strategy.* It will be.
- 7.4 It was suggested that “ordinary” to changed to “standard.” On 1st inspection all **agreed** that the document looks impressive.

8. AOB

- 8.1 *Members asked when the SEND team re-structuring would be completed.* All staff will be in post by September. There will be more front-tine staff and fewer managers.
- 8.2 It would be very useful for schools to know the destination routes of their previous pupils; this information is not currently collected all in one place. This will be looked into later and will feed into the annual reviews.
- 8.3 Mary said that it was anticipated that the Ofsted inspection for SEND services will arrive in September (safeguarding was in March).
- 8.4 Members asked that it be noted that, although it is correct to say there have been no direct cuts to the top-up funding, there has effectively been cuts in mainstream school funding as they have had to absorb the costs.
- 8.4.1 This is partially due to the expansion of the age range from 16 to 25 bringing very little extra funding with it. There has been little uplift in funding since 2007. It is likely that a deficit will have to be carried until the DfE agrees to additional funding. It was noted that the case of the parental challenge to LB Hackney is now going to the High Court.
- 8.5 Members also noted, that although Martin and Phil’s paper on the HNB deficit and the impact of the transfer of funds to Early Help was discussed at School Forum, no decision was made on it.
- 8.6 The next meeting will be held on **July 14th 2021 at 9.30am.** **Teams** invite to follow.
- 8.7 Mary thanked Kris for all his work on the strategy and recovery plan. Kris informed the meeting that he will be leaving as he has gained a promotion in another authority. Everyone wished him well.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at **10.40am.**

Signed

Date