



Haringey Council

Agenda Item

6

Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views
For decision

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 21 May 2015

Report Title: Schools forum Update High Needs Block

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Purpose: Information and planning

Recommendations:

Set performance indicators on spend
Drill down report on out borough placements

1. Report

1.0 SEND Reforms:

The SEND reforms 2014 have changed the legislation over duties to provide support to children from multiple agencies. The key features of the reform agenda are:

- A requirement for the Authority and local Schools to publish their 'Special Educational Needs Offer' for Families and Young People with SEN and Disabilities on their websites
- Education, Health and Social Care Plans (EHC plans) to replace statements, but the threshold to remain as the child's significant learning need. These to be issued within 20 weeks
- The use of a personal budget for services within the Education, Health and Care Plan
- Extension of the EHC plan to 25 years for Young People in Education
- The extension of the duty to include children and young people in Youth Offending Services
- Joint Commissioning between Health, Education and Social Care

Some aspects of the reforms are outside the scope of this paper, however a brief update will be given on key areas for the schools forum.

1.1 Population of children with SEN and Disabilities:

Haringey has 1414 children and young people with Statements of SEN and 499 Young People with Learning Difficulty Assessments. All of the children's statements will be converted into Education Health and Care plans over the next three years, and most of the Young People's Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDD). The conversion of the LDD will depend on whether the Young Person is choosing to stay in Education until 25 years, and their request for a conversion, as the SEND code is clear that the request for an Education, Health and Care Plan is required from the Young Person themselves. For Young People who require less adjustment they may choose not to have their LDD converted, however it is expected that most will request a conversion or have a conversion requested by an advocate.

1.2 Presenting needs on statements

The Young People with Statements of SEN in Haringey have identified on their statement the following primary needs:

- Autism - 525 children and young people
- Moderate learning difficulties - 309 children and young people
- Communication Difficulties -184 children and young people

- Emotional and Behavioural difficulties - 161 children and young people
- Physical Disabilities - 87 children and young people
- Severe learning difficulties (e.g. associated with Down Syndrome, William's Syndrome, epilepsy) - 36 children and young people
- Profound and Multiple Learning difficulties – 34 children and young people
- Profound Hearing impairment - 33 children and young people
- Specific literacy difficulties – 30 children and young people
- Visual Impairment - 22 children and young people

Two children and young people have medical needs without a special educational need. Some children have more than one diagnosis. The majority of statements are issued as a result of a significant cognitive difficulty as a result of Autism, general learning difficulty and/or behaviour or language difficulty. The numbers given above are as a result of primary diagnosis, however many children may have a co-occurring need.

1.3 Services in children's statements funded from top up costs:

The types of support outlined in children's statements is as follows:

- 42 children have specialist teaching hours
- 300 children have 20 hours or under of special needs assistant time, with 285 of these with 15 hours or similar
- 265 have over 20 hours or support
- 270 have 32 hours of support.
- 218 have meal time assistant time

Time from a special needs assistant still represents the most frequent request for support, both from parents and schools.

1.4 Schools funded from High Needs block in statements:

The high needs block budget funds the special schools places in borough, and the following in terms of special school placements out of borough:

Independent non-maintained placement spend is broken down as follow:

Day provision = £3,693,498.28
Residential provision = £2,999,085.46

The CIPFA 2014 benchmarking club report provided a comparison of spend on placements made to independent non-maintained day provision with the other 4 Local Authorities in the benchmarking club (Hackney, Lewisham, Waltham Forrest and Southwark).

Haringey spends more on independent day placements across all categories of need compared to the average across the Local Authorities in the local benchmarking group.

Haringey spends on average £1,446 per week for day pupils with severe learning difficulties compared with the group average of £731 per pupil per week.

For Pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties attending independent day provision, the average Haringey spend is £1,403 per week compared to the group average cost of £883 per week.

For pupils with autism attending independent day provision, Haringey spends on average per pupil per week £1,609 compared to group average cost of £1,239.

With residential placements at independent schools, Haringey spends less on average per place per week compared to the other local boroughs for the following needs: autistic spectrum disorder, moderate learning difficulty, severe learning difficulty, speech, language and communication needs but spends more on residential independent placements for behavioural, emotional and social difficulty needs; £2,593 compared to mean weekly cost across the four boroughs of £1,410.

The patterns of spend on placement, and the underlying reasons for this, require further analysis, however it is an increasing rather than reducing pattern.

For spends by destination please see appendix 1

2. SEND reforms update:

Haringey's Local Offer for children with SEND and Disabilities is now operational and can be found on the Haringey website. There will be a survey of parents and carers in June 2015 around the content and functionality of this site.

2.1 Education Health and Care Plans AssessmentsThe new assessment process for the Education Health and Care plans is now in use. 15 EHC plans have been issued with 115 in progress. We are continuing to have requests of the EHC assessments at the rate of approximately 20 per month with 16 agreed to go to completion representing 192 new plans per year.

2.2 Conversions

The timetable for converting the statements to EHC's has been published on the local offer website and sent to schools. There are 200 young people in the first co-hort of year 11 and year 13, with 23 young people in out borough placements. The first cohort was to be completed by May 2015, however we have stated a delay in issuing. These will now be completed by July 2015.

2.3 Personal Budgets

The personal budgets policy has been published on the website. This outlines the current use of a personal budget for respite and support, and nursing support for children with significant medical needs. The personal budget is

currently being used in only a limited fashion for education support e.g. when children are over borough boundaries and local therapy services cannot be accessed.

2.4 Early Years

There is small working party established to look at the delivery of the services to those children with complex needs in Early Years settings. Specifically the group are looking at bandings for top up funding, with work on the delivery styles needed to provide services for this group of children.

2.5 Youth Offending

Work is just starting around converting statements into EHC for those in youth offending services, and also processes for requesting, assessing and resourcing EHC plans for those young people in secure settings.

3. Implications of the SEND Reforms for the High Needs Block Budget

Extending the age range for people funded within the high needs block means less 'throughput' in terms of finance. There will be an increased demand on the budget for the post 16 group. Resourcing into the statements (now EHC's) rarely decreases over the years during the annual review process. This means that the budget as it stands may not be sufficient to meet the needs of the extended age ranges, unless work can be done to move budget from other budget lines e.g. the out borough group. There are current limitations on how effectively this can be achieved due to:

- Limited placements in borough for the post 16 group
- Limited places and services in borough for the BESD group of young people.

Further analysis on the reasons for out borough placements, and quarterly report on destinations and costs would inform on place planning for this complex group.

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Information also taken from the SEND Commissioning Report written by Catherine Kane April 2015

