

High Needs Block Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
9th September 2016 10am-12.00 noon PDC

Members Present

Martin Doyle: Headteacher Riverside School – Chair
Jean Brown: Governor The Vale
Tony Hartney: Chair, Schools Forum
Melian Mansfield: Pembury House Chair
Marianne McCarthy: Governor Heartlands High School
Mike McKenzie: Headteacher Alexandra Park School
Margaret Sumner: Special Heads Rep
Will Wawn: Primary Heads Rep

Also Present

Vikki Monk-Meyer: Head of Service: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Deborah Tucker: Alternative Provision Commissioner
Steve Worth: Schools Finance Manager
Sarah Hargreaves: Clerk

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and acceptance

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting and welcomed Jean Brown to her 1st HNB meeting.
- 1.2 No apologies have been received.

2. Membership

3. Review of Constitution

- 2.1 Will Wawn was confirmed as the primary heads rep.
- 2.2 It was noted that only School Forum (SF) Members should be listed as Members, all other persons previously listed will come by invite. LA staff are not SF members, even if they attend.
- 2.3 It was **agreed** that non SF Members could be part of this sub-committee as required.
- 2.4 It was **agreed** to invite Angela Ryan, interim Head of the Tuition Service to join the committee.

Action VMM

4. Mechanism for reporting to Schools Forum

- 4.1 It was **agreed** that the dates of these meetings should be 2 weeks before SF, so that minutes could be sent to SF via Carolyn Banks. Clerk to check on forthcoming SF dates.
- 4.2 Melian gave her apologies for being unable to attend the last SF meeting and so being unable to report back on the meeting.

Action Clerk

5. Minutes of 16th June 2016

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

6. Matters arising from the minutes

- 6.1 Pt 3.2.10 Deborah circulated the minutes of the Tuition Service (TS) meeting held on 27th June as requested. She reported that the management restructuring at the Tuition Service was now complete and an interim head of centre had been appointed. **Members asked to be reminded**

- why they had requested the minutes of recent meetings; Deborah said that it was because there had been interest in how TS changes could contribute towards the back to budget savings plan.
- 6.1.1 It was noted that a request has been made for building works to enable more effective use of the building; Property and Contracts are currently looking at options. Members expressed concern that this does not occur in isolation as several potential premises developments need to be co-ordinated.
- 6.1.2 Members agreed that it was important to remember that some students are at the TS because mainstream provision is not suitable for them and the premises need to reflect the need for a less formal environment. Not all students return to their original school, some go out borough and some work at home, not necessarily on a school site.
- 6.1.3 They are currently funded in a similar way to a special school; £10,000 per place plus top-ups.
- 6.2 Pt 3.2.3.1 Members were pleased to learn that the issues at the Parent Partnership Project at Markfield appear to have been resolved.

7. HNB Funding Formula Consultation – Steve Worth

- 7.1 The national funding formula is now scheduled to come into force in 2017-18. The HNB formula is also delayed. It is likely that there will be a Stage 2 consultation; possibly this term.
- 7.2 The EY consultation is out at the moment. There was an extra SF meeting held to discuss it.
- 7.3 There is clear overlap between the EY and HNB consultations. It was noted that there will be extra DLA funding for children within the EY block; although it will be hard to allocate as the expectation of level of care for these young children is already high.
- 7.4 Members urged all primary school colleagues to read the consultation. **Action All**
- 7.5 In 2017-18 the funding levels are likely to be similar to now. The funding for 2018-19 won't be known until after the 2nd state consultation.

8. 16-25 Proposals – Vikki Monk-Meyer

- 8.1 Vikki has discussed her proposal with Gill Gibson, (AD SEND and Head of Early Help). It would concern about 5-6 young people a year in each age of 16-19 yr olds; all with autism and high levels of need. They require a different offer to younger students, and one which needs to be systematic. "Preparing for adulthood" would be an important element of the offer.
- 8.2 Those aged 16+ would be joint funded with health. Members were reminded that the HNB is a LA fund, but the SF is consulted with.
- 8.3 Currently this group gets a variable offer and the DfE is still unclear as to their requirements. Other LAs are in a similar situation.
- 8.4 Now that "Ambitious" are based at CoNEL they are taking students with lower levels of need.
- 8.5 The visit to The Bridge is still to be arranged. **Action MD**
- 8.6 It is likely that building works would be required; corporate support would be needed for this. It is possible that they could be placed in an existing school location, with GB agreement, although there would be governance issues to consider as they are not of statutory school age.
- 8.7 Martin agreed to speak to Gill and John McGrath. Martin thought that it would still be possible to offer an initial service from September 2017. **Action MD**
- 8.8 Around 225 young people aged 18+ are currently being funded. The number is increasing as there is nowhere else for them to go.

9. The Grove free school update – Martin Doyle

- 9.1 Martin reported that it is possible that The Grove (a planned special school for 4-19s) will move to the PDC for at least a year, from September 2017, with a new build following later.
- 9.2 This plan will be discussed at the HHS Board shortly as it will form part of the HHS Trust.
- 9.3 It is anticipated that it will cater for 104 students with a range of needs.

9.4 Members discussed a proposal which has been made to have 3 smaller separate units attached to different schools rather than one large unit. It was **agreed** that this would not be the preferred option.

10. CQC Ofsted inspection – Vikki Monk-Meyer

- 10.1 To date there have been about 6 inspections across the country. Pre-assessment children have been the focus of these inspections. They have been interested in:
- the joint work being undertaken with health visiting and public health
 - how needs have been identified and met and how outcomes have been improved for children and young people.
- 10.2 The inspectors have also been interested in:
- how reporting is undertaken to parents
 - the role of EY and private providers – Vikki will be briefing all providers. **Action VMM**
 - the rate of conversions from statements to EHCPs (all conversions are due to be completed by April 2018; currently 20% have been completed)
 - how the whole area is benefiting from the SEND work undertaken
- 10.3 There is a useful inspection handbook. Vikki to circulate to members. **Action VMM**
- 10.4 The SEND strategy and the Communications strategy will also be circulated. **Action VMM**

11. The Family School - pre-commissioned places - Deborah Tucker

- 11.1 It is proposed that 3 KS2+3 places are commissioned from the Family School, based in Angel, Islington, at a cost of £26,000 each, which is cheaper than spot purchasing. It is a holistic service which engages with the whole family. The re-integration rate back into mainstream schooling is good; this is important as they do not currently offer KS4 places. Pupils will remain dual registered.
- 11.2 The Family School is planning to move to new premises near Kings Cross so that they can accommodate 48 students.
- 11.3 This project will be added to the LBH website. **Action DT**
- 11.4 Members asked if this project could cater for some of the children who currently stay too long within the Tuition Service. This could be considered.
- 11.30am Mike McKenzie & Tony Hartney leave the meeting.

11a. The Octagon

- 11a1 The current contract for the Octagon was circulated.
- 11a2 They provide services for KS2,3,4.
- 11a3 Funding: 58 places (46 secondary and 12 primary) are provided via a mixture of LA and EFA funding for Haringey based children only. Their services to primary pupils are considered to be better than those for secondary pupils. Social Care have expressed concerns with the secondary provision.
- 11a4 They have not yet had an Ofsted inspection.
- 11a5 Top-up funding is provided up to £10,000pa for 10 children. This was considered to be high given the outcomes achieved. Members asked for more evidence of pupil outcomes. **Action DT**
This funding is in addition to the place cost of £23,000.
- 11a6 On average 15-16 pupils are catered for at any one time.
- 11a7 It is planned to commission less places and place pupils elsewhere.
- 11a8 Members asked for clarity as to whether any savings would be held by the borough or the HNB. **Action SW**

12. Early Help – model of delivery - Vikki Monk-Meyer

12.1 Links between home and school require development.

12.2 It is planned that 7 workers will work with pupils with autism and ADHD in mainstream settings.

13. Update on back to Budget Savings Plan – Vikki Monk-Meyer

13.1 The latest Plan has been to Schools Forum. £20,000 has been saved on out borough placements.

13.2 It is proposed to reduce the pre-commissioned places in children centres from 2017-18. The impact on children centres is still to be worked through. There will be a further review of this proposal in January 2017.

Action VMM

13.3 Schools Forum has allocated £500,000 to support schools with disproportionate percentages of pupils with special needs; members asked how the formula was arrived at. It is on a standard deviation based on the size of the school. Members considered this to be a step in the right direction, but still too broadbrush as some schools have very high % of pupils with special needs.

13.4 **Will Wawn** volunteered to assist Vikki and Steve at looking at the figures for primary schools and suggested **Mike McKenzie** for the secondaries. It was noted that the funding is weighted towards the primaries as secondaries already receive block funding.

Action WW, MMcK, VMM, SW

14. AOB

14.1 No items.

14.2 Dates of future meetings: at 10am at the PDC.

It was **agreed** that meetings should be 2 weeks before School Forum meetings.

Proposed dates are:

15th November

3rd February

5th May

9th June

There being no further business the meeting ended at **12.05pm**.

Signed

Date