

High Needs Block Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
3rd February 2017 10.15am-12.45pm PDC

Members Present

Martin Doyle: Headteacher Riverside School – Chair
Jean Brown: Governor The Vale
* Tony Hartney: Chair, Schools Forum
* Melian Mansfield: Pembury House Chair of Governors
Marianne McCarthy: Governor Heartlands High School
* Mike McKenzie: Headteacher Alexandra Park School
Angela Ryan: Tuition Service
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
Yoke O'Brien: Schools Finance Manager
Sarah Hargreaves: Clerk

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and acceptance

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting and confirmed that Peter Catling is a member.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence have been received from Tony Hartney, Mike McKenzie and Melian Mansfield.

2. Minutes of the 15th November 2016

- 2.1 Pt 4.2 For clarification this should read that pupils are funded in 3 bands, up to a maximum of £11,642. Costs are currently being re-negotiated.
- 2.2 With this change 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 4.3 Deborah informed the group that Cambridge, Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea all use TBAP and are broadly happy with their services, with only minor concerns expressed. TBAP are due to expand their services in the London/Cambridge corridor. Deborah will circulate the Alternative Provision map she has drawn up. **Action DT**
- 3.2 Pt 5.7 Angela has spoken to Lorraine Cody at Simmons House, who has spoken to other hospital schools regarding mental health services.
- 3.3 Pt 7. Marianne reported that there will be a briefing for HHS governors next week on The Grove. The DfE are still supportive but they won't fund temporary premises. They are happy with a 2019 opening as long as the LA confirms that it is happy. A temporary primary provision is not viable on the Heartlands site anyway.

10.30am Will and Yoke join the meeting.

- 3.4 After discussion it was **agreed** that there would be little benefit in additional lobbying of the DfE.
- 3.5 It is the provision for higher functioning young people which is still lacking. The numbers in current provisions can increase only slightly.

- 3.6 Pt 8.3 Angela confirmed that Simmons House is not charging other boroughs for places directly; they are aware that they should not be doing so. Deborah and Angela to look at individual invoices for more detail of what has been happening. **Action DT, AR**
- 3.7 For clarity, the 2 figures should be added together to show that £220,000 is received from the HNB by Simmons House.
- 3.8 It was clarified that secondary schools will still receive their lump sum contingency payments. Will and Yoke will be checking the details next week. £1.3m will be passported via the HNB; as said in the previous meeting, this has encouraged some schools to admit more pupils with EHCP's.

4. Post 16 Provision Update – Vikki Monk-Meyer

- 4.1 This has now evolved into a 16-19 years business case. Conversations are being held with special schools as to whether they can increase their PAN, including those with complex needs, as part of the plan to reduce the amount of external placements.
- 4.1.1 If these new places are attached to schools they are not subject to college regulations.
- 4.1.2 Although these places will only account for a small number of pupils they are all high cost placements. Each in-borough placement would save around £50,000pa.
- 4.1.3 Martin said that Riverside would anticipate being able to accommodate a minimum of 3 such students for 2017/18,, incrementally rising to 12 over future years.
- 4.2 It was noted that Haringey provides more post 16 (16-25) education than other boroughs, who tend to move people over into adult case.
- 4.3 It was agreed that local provision was the preferred option for all groups and that provision for the 19-25 cohort raised concerns around the country; even spending high levels of funding does not necessarily mean that people's needs are easily met. The Bridge, in LBI, was highlighted as a relatively local provision which provides a good level of service.

5. Survey Monkey – Vikki Monk-Meyer

- 5.1 Three members said that they had completed the draft.
- 5.2 Various questions were raised for clarification:
- do you need to use the services in order to comment on them?
 - an additional N/A box would be useful
 - it was clarified that the survey was aimed at Heads and SENDCOs, not governors
 - do services know that these questions are being asked about their services; there could be ethical issues about basing funding decisions on subjective assessments. Vikki clarified that they were aware of the survey
 - it is important to be able to distinguish between the quality and the capacity of a service
 - a comments box should be added
- 5.3 It was **agreed** that a survey can only ever provide a snapshot of a service but could be useful in providing a starting point to assess services if it is used in conjunction with focus groups which can consider the bigger picture.
- 5.4 **Members asked why Early Help was not included in the list of services being reviewed.** This is because they will be reviewed separately in June.
- 5.5 With one abstention the group **agreed** to proceed with the survey.

6. High Needs Block Spend Analysis on Out Borough Placements – Vikki Monk-Meyer

- 6.1 Members were asked to note the circulated spreadsheet.
- 6.2 It was noted that:
- although there are not many social emotional mental health placements they are expensive.
 - autism, as the main diagnosis, is usually from age 11

- members commented that pupils assessed as having moderate learning disabilities are frequently dyslexic; it is likely that their diagnosis is historic
- pupils assessed as having specific learning disabilities are also frequently dyslexic
- 6.3 Members felt that the spreadsheet was a useful summary and could be used to justify the emphasis on older pupils and those with autism.
- 6.3.1 It also showed that primary schools are generally more inclusive than secondary schools.
- 6.3.2 The number of actual pupils in each category would be a useful addition to the spreadsheet. They asked that it be updated and presented at each meeting. **Action VMM**
- 6.4 Members asked that the patterns for the diagnosis of autism, compared to other boroughs, come to the next meeting; particularly in light of the increasing demand for places at secondary level; where there is insufficient provision. **Action VMM**
- 6.5 Vikki suggested that SENDCOs in primary schools are asked who they believe will struggle at secondary school due to autism.

7-11. HNB Back to Budget Plans update, Use of SEN Contingency 2018/19, Re-structure Autism/Language Support and financial implications, Identification and use of under spends in other areas of budget, Early Years Top up – review of budget use to date – Vikki Monk-Meyer

It was agreed to take items 7-11 of the agenda together as they are all linked.

- 7.1 Vikki reported that the currently anticipated deficit is around £900,000,.
- 7.2 A table of potential cuts was circulated and the following reductions in funding **agreed**:

Budget Area	Proposed Reduction £	Agreed Reduction £	Comments
Portage	50,000		Already been taken out
Language & Autism Team	100,000	100,000	The 2 services to be combined to enable efficiency savings..
SEN ** Contingency	200,000	200,000	Funding to be distributed across schools, which meet the threshold, funding reduction proposed as 200K
Early Years Top-up	85,000	85,000	Out of the 17-18 budget due to slow take-up; can be re-introduced later
Total	435,000	385,000	

SEN Contingency: ** it was not agreed that this fund should still be used for those children who do not have EHCPs but who are receiving support. Currently schools do not bid in for funds and also receive short term funding. It was **agreed** to raise the threshold for support, but to keep the same formula and to remove the bidding in process.

- 7.3 **Early Years Top-Up:** the places in the maintained sector cost £365,000. There are issues with the referral system, rather than with any lack of children to fill the places. Members asked how the nurseries were being supported to apply for the funding. Vikki said that she would be making the application process simpler in order to encourage applications. **Action VMM**
- 7.3.1 It was **agreed** to reduce the fund by £85,000 in the short term, until the demand increases,
- 7.4 Members asked Yoke to re-model the spreadsheet for before half term, showing what funding each school would receive if the cut off for funding were set at £300,000 or £400,000 instead of £435,000. This will use the March 2016 data and will be agreed by email before Schools Forum.

12. HNB Consultation Implications – Yoke O'Brien

- 12.1 The current LBH HNB budget, before reductions, is £35,850,000. It is proposed that in 2017/18 this will be reduced to £35,032,000. The DfE says that the overall budget will be increasing, but this does not appear to be the case. Yoke to check. **Action YO'B**
- 12.2 Yoke will be preparing a draft response to the DfE Schools National Funding Formula for March 22nd. She would be happy to draw up some informed indicative comments for the committee on the separate High Needs Block consultation, although to date she has been concentrating on the main schools' DSG consultation. **Action YO'B**
- 12.3 Martin suggested that a working party be set up to meet separately regarding the HNB consultation. Will, Vikki, Martin and Yoke volunteered to form a working party to initially meet on Feb 8th. **Action WW, VMM, MD, YO'B**

13. AOB

- 13.1 No items.

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

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

Dates are:

5th May

9th June

There being no further business the meeting ended at **12.40pm**.

Signed

Date