

High Needs Block Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
8th September 2017 10.00am-12.00 noon at The PDC

Members

Martin Doyle: Headteacher Riverside School – Chair
+ Jean Brown: Governor The Vale
+ 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
+ Dawn Ferdinand: Headteacher Willow
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
Phil di Leo: Governor The Vale (in place of Jean Brown)
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 Jean Brown.
- 1.3 Phil di Leo is attending in place of Jean Brown.

2. Membership and Vacancies

- 2.1 It was noted that Margaret Sumner had not been a Special Schools Rep. It was **agreed** that her vacancy would be added to the list to go to Schools Forum asking for governors to join a range of groups. (This includes the vacancy created by Marianne McCarthy's resignation). **Action MM**
- 2.2 It was noted that Claire Macdonald is the interim Head of the Tuition Service and should be invited to meetings. **Action Clerk**
- 2.3 It was suggested and **agreed** that Ngozi Anuforo (Commissioning) and Gareth Morgan (Early Help) be invited to join the group. **Action Clerk**
- 2.4 Clive Heaphy, the new S501 Chief Finance Officer, has expressed an interest in attending a meeting. Yoke to invite him. **Action YO'B**

3. Minutes of the 9th June 2017

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- 4.1 Pt 3.4 Riverside school now caters for 11-19's not 16's as previously. This is now listed on EduBase and so is official. Community work will be undertaken in the Learning Centre which will open in May 2018. Yrs 12 & 13 are currently being accommodated within the Riverside building. The plans for the physical school changes will be going to the SEN Grants Committee. The provision will be local and more cost effective than that provided by Ambitious. Yoke will

check the ESFA funding for the post 16 element. There are currently 4 pupils, possibly rising to 5 after May 2018. **Action YO'B**

- 4.2 Pt 4.10 The High Needs Block funding is under considerable pressure. The grant comes from central government grants. London Councils have written to the Secretary of State to say that there are insufficient funds in the HNB across London.
- 4.2.1 £300,000 will be transferred out of the HNB to fund hospital provision. Yoke will check whether this will be staying within the LA budgets or moving to the NHS. **Action YO'B**
- 4.3 Pt 5 The changes to the SEN contingency was agreed by Schools Forum. There will be an overall saving of around £15,000 this year.
- 4.4 **10.20am Will Wawn** joined the meeting.
- 4.5 Pt 8.1 Martin will be still to speak to Tony Hartney. It will be an opportunity to update him on the joint EY/HNB issues before the next SF meeting. There is a need to agree where the highest SEN need is and therefore where the money should be spent. **Action MD**

5. Survey Monkey: services to support inclusion

- 5.1 This has been sent out to the group as a trial.
- 5.2 **Members wondered if it evaluated the effectiveness of the financial spend as much as looking at the possible efficiencies in service delivery** which should be clear from the survey.
- 5.3 More details on:
Why it is being sent out
To whom is it being sent
What is being asked
When feedback will be provided
The type of institution (eg EY, school , college rather than the name)
are required, it was felt. Further comments to Vikki within the week. **Action All**
- 5.4 It was **agreed** to add RNIB to the list of services being evaluated. **Action VM-M**

6. HNB Budget – actions to date

- 6.1 E41241 – Language Support Team: Social/communication expenditure will now be spent more on strategic support in the school and not just those with an ASD diagnosis.
- 6.2 E41246 – Portage.
- 6.3 E41248 – transport. The LA is now paying for £275,000 of costs.
- 6.4 E41285 – top-ups. The Grove and Tuition costs are be funded from here.
- 6.5 E41287 – SEN Contingency, there is a projected underspend due to the changes.
- 6.6 The net in-year movement is £440,000, which is an improvement. There are likely to be further changes as pupils move between settings.
- 6.7 Joint funding is being received from adult social care. Yoke will check the figures **Action YO'B**
- 6.8 Simmons House; re-charges will be made for non north London group places and education places. Action ER/JP

7. Grove School Update

- 7.1 There will be temporary accommodation found for services from September 2018 with GS moving to the PDC from Sept 2019.

8. Local Offer Update

- 8.1 The website has been re-designed and looks good. Flyers and posters will be produced. There will be a parent's event in October.

9. HNB Strategy Paper

- 9.1 E42186 – Higher Education top-up.

- 9.2 There are around 150 new EHCPs assessments undertaken each year. 300 are requested of which around 53% are rejected (which is high compared to other boroughs, other boroughs have a lower request rate). Schools are informed that they should be able to cope.
- 9.2.1 The management of pre-EHCP care needs to be carefully followed and costed.
- 9.3 Some plans end as the young people move out of education and into training.
- 9.4 Around 300 young people over 16 years received funding (at £8,300 each). Ending some of these commitments will become an increasing priority as children meet their outcomes.

11am Melian Mansfield left the meeting.

- 9.5 People continue to stay in education places, even though these are not necessarily the best place for them. The challenge is to still be able to meet their needs elsewhere. This needs to be raised in the Adult Provision Review, so that it is clear where the pressures on services and budgets are. **Action VM-M**
- 9.5.1 It is possible that the overall provision may remain the same; just funded and monitored from elsewhere.
- 9.6 Plans need to be fully costed out so that parents and funding agencies know the real cost of provision and which elements should be funded from HNB and which from elsewhere.
- 9.8 Yoke reported that a survey is about to be completed for HM Treasury on what is being spent and on what and what the pressures continue to be. She will report back. **Action JO'B**
- 9.9 It was noted that whilst Early Help is statutory, the funding does not have to come out of the HNB grant. Also the amount of funding is not pre-specified.
- 9.10 Some external contracts will be reviewed. The Therapy review is starting, including therapy spent for children in out-borough schools.
- 9.11 Simmonds House will need to re-coup money from its placements.
- 9.12 The ethos of how children and their learning outcomes will be met needs to be agreed and will be included in the joint paper looking at the review of EY and HNB. **Action VM-M, Ngozi Anuforo**
- 9.12 The HNB funding this year is £33.4m and next year will be £35.2m. **Members asked for details of any extra costs this increase is likely to have to cover.** **Action YO'B**
- 9.12.1 Place funding for Heartlands, Mulberry and West Green will be moving out of the HNB. The costs of top up's will remain. When Heartlands becomes The Grove it will move back in.
- 9.13 Will and Yoke will meet to go through the figures further. **Action WW, YO'B**

10. AOB

- 10.1 The government response to the Stage 2 consultation is due later in September.
- 10.2 It was clarified that there is, in fact, a statutory duty around 2 year old provision.
- 10.3 The Octagon: the top-up per pupil is £13,362 (58 pupils accounts for £775,000). Over the next 2 years this will reduce to £721,551 (54 pupils). TBAP have suggested their costs may rise between 4% (£75,000 pa) or 10% (£793,000 pa).
- 10.3.1 As the schools pay the Octagon the question is should they be paying the LA instead, especially if the number of places is being cut?
- 10.3.2 Deborah reported that the Octagon is sending pupils back to their school as they say they are "too hard" to deal with.
- 10.3.3 Deborah and Charlotte Pomeroy are meeting with TBAP today and will report back. **Action DT**
- 10.4 It has been **agreed** to hold another joint HNB/EY meeting on Sept 25th at 1.30-3.30pm to look at some common issues. The attendance for this meeting is still to be considered.

11. Dates of future meetings: at 10am at the PDC. It was **agreed** that meetings should be 2 weeks before SF pre-meetings. The next meeting will be on **10th November**. There being no further business the meeting ended at **12 noon**.

Signed

Date