



**Agenda Item
9b**

Report Status

For information/note

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 17th January 2018

Report Title: The Haringey Tuition Service

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Purpose: For noting only - of proposed short term actions and information on possible longer term actions

Recommendations: NA

Background

The Haringey Tuition Service (HTS) is an integrated service for students whose medical needs either prevent them from attending mainstream school or where they do attend mainstream but require support. The Home Tuition Service provides 1:1 tuition in the home or in public libraries for students who have medical needs and cannot attend school. The provision also includes, on a separate site, at Simmons House in Muswell Hill, an adolescent psychiatric unit for 13 to 18 year olds.

The School's Forum commission 55 student places at the HTS to be retained for medical needs. The 12 bed spaces at Simmons House are allocated directly via CAMHs.

In 2017 the Interim Head Teacher of the Haringey Tuition Service and the Haringey School Improvement Advisor to the service carried out a review of the service. The scope of the review was as follows:

1. Status of and purpose of the service;
2. Admissions arrangements for taking pupils on roll;
3. Location of the service (currently Bruce Grove N17);
4. Funding and budget management - including how delegated

budget is managed by the Headteacher/Management Committee (including provisions of Scheme of Delegation);

5. Future funding (including how Simmons House pays for education of those young people admitted who aren't Haringey residents);
6. Curriculum offer;
7. Commissioning of hours/places from SEN/AP/any other.

There are some clear actions that can be taken with immediate effect to support the service, and some actions that will require further consideration and work by officers and partners before we can move forward with them. These are summarised below.

Immediate actions from the review

1. **Referral:** the referral to the service has historically been poorly defined. The referral pathway must be streamlined so that there is one pathway only. The HTS needs to work with the LA to establish if that single pathway sits with the Alternative Provision Commissioner for the DSG funded places or elsewhere. The charged places must be made directly through the HTS's own website.

This will be a first step in the development of the website to have a menu of services, priced at the market rate. These services will be scoped out and developed as part of a wider look at how the HTS fits into the LA's vision and need for services to support our young people in the coming years and will be influenced by, among others, Schools and Learning, SEND, AP and Early Help.

2. **Admissions:** There aren't currently defined admissions criteria for the service. These needs to be rectified without delay by establishing clear and explicit admission arrangements that leave the service, schools, parents/carers and other users/referrers (e.g. CAMHs) with a clear understanding of the threshold for both referral and admission. This should be actioned immediately through the Management Committee: Haringey Admissions will support and assist as required.
3. **Head teacher appointment:** there has been an interim head teacher at HTS since May 2016. While wider work is underway to scope and shape the offer of the HTS in the coming years, there is no reason not to appoint a substantive head teacher to the service. A process to recruit a substantive head teacher should begin without delay.
4. **Devolution of the budget/appointment of a Business Manager:** the HTS has long had a delegated budget, but that budget hasn't historically been devolved to the service which has meant SAP has to be used to make any payment, including where agency staff are used to support peripatetic teaching of students in their homes or in libraries.

This has finally been resolved and a devolved budget will sit with the HTS from 1 April 2018.

Such a move necessitates a strong and capable Business Manager to ensure that processes are in place and the service is fully financially compliant. Recruitment to this post (anticipated to be part time and term time only) should begin straight away. Appropriate financial challenge from the Management Committee will assist with this devolution and ensure that the service is able to remain in budget each year. This will be further contributed to by a single point of entry for each young person on roll and a proper system for ensuring mainstream schools appropriately recompense the HTS when one of their pupils is dual rolled with the HTS for a prolonged period.

5. **Top slicing of the budget from the DSG:** every school has money top sliced to provide services from the Local Authority. The HTS has questioned the amount being top sliced from its budget to fund, among other things, HR support, IT and property services management. As part of a more in-depth look at the service, the LA will examine the top slicing of the HTS to see if it is proportionate and in line with top slicing from other schools. At the current time there is no suggestion that it isn't.
6. **10 Bruce Grove** (the premises within which the HTS sits): 10 Bruce Grove is a converted Georgian building, previously used as offices. It sits in front of Bruce Grove Youth Service building which is a more contemporary structure and accessed via the side of 10 Bruce Grove. HTS utilise the space in the Youth Service building during the day for their young people and while the leadership has made significant strides in ensuring robust safeguarding measures are in place to support this arrangement, there are clear further steps that could be taken to allow a dual use of the premises in a way that meets and protects the needs of all users in the interim period while a decision is taken on the scope and shape of HTS and its location. This work should be led by officers within the LA in liaison with the Management Committee of HTS.
7. **Outreach staff:** currently HTS employs one permanent outreach teacher and five agency staff. this is not tenable either in financial terms or in terms of building staff relationships and contributing towards raising standards and allowing for succession planning. Immediate consideration should be given to a pool of permanent staff that are commissioned on a needs basis. This would allow for greater consistency for HTS and for young people/families and also be much more economically viable. It would also reduce the significant amount of time spent on processing paperwork for the agency staff currently used. As part of this work, thought also needs to be given as to how to recompense teachers for their peripatetic outreach travelling: currently this is done via monthly claim sheets which isn't an efficient or

supportive way to manage teachers who are out in the community to support some of Haringey's most vulnerable young people.

8. **Simmons House:** The 'Classroom' is the teaching arm of HTS and sits within Simmons House, a Whittington Health adolescent in-patient psychiatric unit in Muswell Hill N10. The Classroom is Haringey's only hospital school. HTS and Simmons House are inspected jointly by Ofsted but to all intents and purposes the two teaching elements operate largely independently of one another because of the nature of Simmons House's young people's educational needs. However, an immediate look at the drawback of the costs of educating some of the pupils in Simmons House is needed and the LA is looking at this with a view to recouping costs of those young people whose home address is out of Haringey and out of the agreed small number of local boroughs that are currently top sliced to allow for funding of this education.

Longer term considerations and actions from the review

The narrative on immediate actions above (1-8) has also set out the longer term considerations needed around HTS, including the suitability of the building and the consideration to how the outreach is currently structured. In addition to these considerations the review also sets out how the service itself sees its future offer developing. The Management Committee believes the service should expand to become a SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) school for KS1 – KS5 students. They would like to see CAMHs support attached to the service - a psychiatric nurse, SEN Caseworker, Family Support Worker, Home/School Coordinator, EWO, Virtual School Coordinator and NEET Coordinator. By pooling budgets, they believe the needs of the most vulnerable young people in the LA could be met. The core offer would be an alternative education for students within the borough whose attendance at their primary/secondary school is either not meeting need or causing concern (or both) or who are not attending school at all. They would offer the following places:

- 10 Places for SEN Unplaced (Charged)
- 5 Places Pregnant Teenagers (Charged)
- 5 Places LAC (Charged)
- 6 Places NEET with SEMH (Charged)
- 10 places to support school in respite from challenging students (Charged)
- 55 places Medical Needs PRU (Commissioned Places by Schools Forum)
- The cost per day would be circa £200 with a menu of additional services

The above proposal needs further shaping with officers in Schools and Learning, SEND, Commissioning and in Early Help to ensure that the offer meets the needs of our young people, and, in the long term, is based on clear investment to save principles with specific outcomes and key performance

targets that are able to be monitored and adhered to. The LA is also meeting with the CCG to talk about their views and actions on future in-borough provision.

In summary, officers have tentatively teased out the following *potential* offer:

1. A bespoke education offer, potentially mixed home and school, which supports children and young people with mental health needs and co-occurring or resulting SEN. The LAC cohort would need a specific and carefully crafted local offer to ensure their needs are specifically met.
2. There should be two clear and defined pathways that are enshrined in the admissions criteria for the service: either time limited or permanent – which is agreed via the admissions criteria and a contract at the outset so as to ensure no young person is abandoned at HTS by any mainstream school.
3. Co- working with CAMHs, school nursing and therapies is essential, and full engagement will be made between Schools and Learning and SEND colleagues to ensure that the need and purpose is recognised and appropriately discharged.

Summary

The HTS provides critical and very valued support to our schools and for our young people in supporting a cohort of children who are vulnerable and not able to access mainstream for a given period, sometimes never. However, the remit of the service has become very blurred in recent years and the potential for it to grow and develop must now be explored and harnessed.

There are some immediate actions that can be taken to improve service delivery and efficiency, support development of the offer available and generally improve the experience for young people and for the staff at HTS. These include a devolved budget, appointment of a substantive Head teacher and SBM and defined admission criteria and recouping of funding from schools in circumstances where a young person is at the HTS for an extended period, particularly where the young person has EHCP funding.

Longer term consideration must and will be given to more complex issues including the suitability of the building and possible alternative locations as well as working with officers and CAMHs to determine how the service should evolve to meet both the needs of our young people and the rightly high aspirations of the Management Committee.

A further paper will be brought back to the next Schools Forum with an update on how this latter work is taking shape.