

Report to the Schools Forum March 2016

Draft Remit of T&W Schools Forum High Needs Sub-Group

Forum members are invited to comment on the draft remit below prior to the first meeting of the group on 22 March 2016.

1 Overall Purpose of Schools Forum High Needs Sub-Group

- 1.1 To review the deployment of the existing High Needs budget and advise the LA on the best strategy for use of resources in the future in order to ensure appropriate, cost effective support for children and young people with high needs.

2 Membership

- 2.1 The core membership of the group will be as follows:

Lee Hadley	Abraham Darby Academy
Mark Gibbons	Windmill Primary
Claire Lamb	Redhill Primary
Heather Davies	The Bridge
Paul Roberts	HLC Secondary
Rachael Brown	The Linden Centre
Jim Collins	T&W Council
Andy Cooke	T&W Council
Tim Davis	T&W Council

- 2.2 Others may be invited to attend and contribute to the group as and when is appropriate.

3 Specific Tasks

- 3.1 To review and understand the funding of high needs (including taking into account any potential changes arising from the DfE's schools funding consultation to take place in 2016).

- 3.2 In this funding context, to review and recommend any changes to the LA's current deployment of high needs resources, i.e. firstly, how much is and should be spent on high needs as a whole and secondly, how much is and should be spent in each main area of the system:

- special schools;
- specialist units;
- PRUS/Assessment & intervention centres;
- statements;
- intervention panels;
- centrally provided services (e.g. Sensory Inclusion service);
- residential provision;

- alternative provision;
- behaviour support;
- management & support.

3.3 In order to do this the following will be considered;

- the thresholds at which it is appropriate for children and young people to access specialist provision;
- the extent to which benchmarking can assist understanding of T&W's current pattern of expenditure and potential options for the future;
- trends in recent years for expenditure in each area;
- any impact of changes to the SEN system (i.e. EHCPs, the extension of potential support to 25).

4 Timescale

4.1 The first meeting of the group will take place at the end of the 2016 Spring Term, after which meetings will be held as appropriate over the summer term. An interim report will be provided to the LA and Schools Forum for the 23 September 2016 meeting of the Schools Forum (to inform the balance of expenditure in 2017/18 between the Schools, High Needs and Early Years DSG blocks) with a final report provided to the LA and Schools Forum for the 25 November 2016 meeting of the Schools Forum (to inform the specific High Needs budgets set for 2017/18).