

Enclosure 5

London Borough of Sutton Schools Forum		
High Needs Review Update		
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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with an update on progress in relation to the High Needs Block Review. Previous Schools Forum reports in January 2020 and June 2020 provide background information to the review, this report providing a brief update on activity since the previous report.
- 1.2. There were three main recommendations from the mainstream working group (i) review the way that notional funding is calculated in the Borough / improve awareness of how this funding is deployed in schools, (ii) Additional Predictable Needs Funding and (iii) develop 'SENCO clusters'.

SEND Notional Funding

- 1.3. Notional SEN funding is not "extra" funding; it is already part of every mainstream school's budget as part of the NFF (National Funding Formula) budget that all schools receive. Proposals to change the way that notional funding is calculated in the Borough was approved by Schools Forum in January 2020.
- 1.4. In addition to the way that notional funding is being calculated, the Local Authority will now be collecting information on how notional SEND is being allocated in mainstream schools. The proforma attached in Appendix A has been circulated to all mainstream schools with a completion date of 21 October.
- 1.5. All schools gain from sharing what they do and hearing how other schools work. Providing information on notional SEND funding will be an important way of supporting the work of the SENCO clusters (see below). Many SENCOs perceive an unevenness in how different schools manage their SEN resources i.e. a lack of consistency and a lack of common language when talking about needs. Collecting and sharing information about notional SEND spend will help to address this. It will also support schools in the way that they report to governors, as well as to Ofsted and or parents with respect to their use of SEN resources. The proforma provides a common framework in which this

can happen. Officers will bring together a summary of the returns received for the December Forum meeting.

Additional Predictable Needs Funding

- 1.6. The Local Area is seeking to move towards a system of funding where mainstream schools have additional funding at 'whole school' level to address 'predictable needs' rather than high needs funding being tied up entirely on Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs).
- 1.7. Schools Forum approved a proposal to devolve £400k of additional funding to schools to support predictable needs in 2020/21. A draft methodology was discussed with Forum in January 2020. Appendix B sets out the final methodology to be used this year. Funding is expected to be paid to schools after receipt of the October Census data (mid to late November 2020).

SENCO Clusters

- 1.8. Since the last report to Schools Forum the following activities have been undertaken:
 - The Local Area has recruited all 7 Lead Cluster SENCOs in the Local Area (see Appendix C).
 - Provision mapping software has been purchased for all mainstream schools (and special schools and EY settings) with ALL schools committing to using the software over the next two years. At the time of writing, there were 3 schools awaiting for 'integration' with their MIS system to be completed.
 - The first of the SENCO Cluster meetings took place virtually (Google Meet) on 22 September providing training on the SEND notional spend proforma, provision mapping and exceptional/predictable needs model. There were 62 SENCOs/attendees for this meeting indicating strong engagement despite the obvious challenges created by Covid:19

Recommendations

- 1.9. Schools Forum are asked to note:
 - the progress made to date on the HNBR mainstream workstream
 - the final additional predictable needs funding model to be implemented in November 2020