

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM
16th January 2024

ITEM NO 9

HIGH NEEDS MONITORING SUB-GROUP UPDATE

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Schools Forum on the formation of the high needs sub group and its work plan.

Forum Decision Required

The Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report
- b) Agree the work priorities as outlined below

Background

2. The members of the high needs sub-group are:

Academy reps 3 Primary	Paula Ayto – Principal, Reid Street Primary School (Chair) Deborah Hindson – SENCO, Heathfield Academy Alex Nelson – SENDO, West Park Academy
Academy reps 2 Secondary	Owen Inglis - Head Teacher, Wyvern Academy James Keating – Executive Head Teacher, Hummersknott Academy
Special School rep (1)	Caroline Green, Executive Principal, Beaumont Hill Academy
PRU/Maintained sector	Sally Hudson – Rise Carr College
Non-school rep	Andy Gilpin - Darlington College
<p>Local Authority</p> <p>The following local authority officers shall also be observer members of the high needs monitoring sub-group and provide professional technical support to assist the consideration and work of the group.</p>	<p>Emma Clennell - Finance Manager</p> <p>Jo Littler - Interim Head of Service for SEND & Inclusion</p> <p>Senior Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children/Young People and SEND</p> <p>Eleanor Marshall – Clerk/Education Partnerships Officer</p>

Meetings of the Sub-Group

3. The sub group will meet half-termly on the following dates:
 - Tuesday 23rd January 2024
 - Thursday 15th February 2024
 - Thursday 14th March 2024
 - Thursday 18th April 2024
 - Thursday 20th June 2024
 - Thursday 18th July 2024
4. The first meeting of the High Needs Sub-Group was held on Monday 27th November. The sub-group terms of reference were agreed (see Appendix 1). As noted in the sub-group minutes (Appendix 2 commercially in confidence), the sub-group discussed and agreed to recommend for Schools Forum approval:

1. Low Incidence Needs Service (LINS)

An uplift request of £25,000 was taken to Darlington Borough Council's People's Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) because of the statutory duty to provide this service. DLT agreed the need to fund this current financial year with a view to review before September 2024. The Sub-Group agreed that this was a reasonable request and not to disrupt service delivery, and it was noted that this is also an opportunity to review the delivery model of the service.

2. Resource Base Update – Commercially in Confidence

- Heathfield base for Cognition and Learning
- Northwood base for Speech and Language

The current position on places at the above resource bases was noted. The rationale for reviewing the bases was agreed.

3. Beaumont Hill Update – Commercially in Confidence

The position relation to places was noted and the relevance of the progress of the Tees Valley Free School.

4. Outreach Services Update and Areas of work moving forward

The review of outreach services has commenced. Services have been informed. The sub-group agreed that higher funded services should be priorities for review, therefore, agreed a priority review of the Social Communication Outreach Service, bearing in mind the reviews as per the resource base position explained previously.

Since the sub-group met The Rydal Academy have requested an uplift for the Traveller Education Service (TEAS). (See Item 11)

Recommendations

- a) That Forum note the report;
- b) That Forum agree the work priorities as outlined above including a priority review of the SCOS and TEAS.