



Schools Forum High Needs Monitoring Sub-Group

Summary of Meeting

Thursday 14th March 2024: 3 pm – 5 pm

Attendees and Apologies:

Paula Ayto (Chair)	Primary Academy Vice-Chair Schools Forum	Reid Street Primary School	
Alex Nelson	Primary Academy	West Park Primary School	Apologies
Deb Hindson	Primary Academy	Heathfield Primary School	
Caroline Green	Special School	EVAT Beaumont Hill & Marchbank	Represented by Nicole Gilbert
James Keating	Secondary Academy	Hummersknott Secondary School	
Sally Hudson	Maintained	Rise Carr (PRU)	Apologies
Andy Gilpin	Non School/Post 16	Darlington College	
Vacancy	Secondary Academy		

Local Authority:

Joanne Littler	Interim Head of Service for SEND & Inclusion
Emma Clennell	Finance Manager
Helen Watson	Senior Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children/Young People and SEND
Elly Marshall	Education Partnerships Officer

Item No.	Item Discussion
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Register/Declaration of business interests – None</p> <p>Any Other Business – None</p> <p>Nicole Gilbert, Deputy Head at Beaumont Hill Academy introduced herself as substitute for Caroline Green.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 15th February 2024</p> <p>Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.</p> <p>Subject to :</p> <p>Item 4: to be reworded.</p> <p>Item 4</p> <p>The group noted the report and recommended to Schools Forum that no changes to the budget were appropriate at this point due to the lack of options within the funding envelope, it would therefore be presented to School Forum on this basis.</p>

	<p>Matters Arising Vulnerable Pupil Panel funding Action: Calvin Kipling and Dianne Gage will bring a paper for JL to present at a future meeting outlining allocation of funding to settings awarded through VPP.</p> <p>Social Care Case Study Case study to be conducted to analyse where early intervention may have prevented escalation resulting in high-cost placement in independent educational sector.</p>
3	<p>Resource Base Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant change DFE decision for changes to Heathfield base expected by mid-May. - Expansion of secondary Resource base offer, discussions ongoing.
4	<p>Outreach Review</p> <p>A school’s consultation will be open shortly that closes Easter. Noted that outreach not ordinarily or consistently available post 16.</p>
5	<p>High Needs Budget Risks</p> <p>Reasons discussed included: Attendance, Poor Mental Health, Early Years in context of post covid world</p> <p>Immediate Risks agreed - numbers of pupils with EHCP continue to rise, lack of capacity in local specialist provision, OOA children placed in Darlington provision. Rising costs of Independent Placements. Limited RB Offer at secondary.</p> <p>The members discussed mitigations of risks.</p>
6	<p>Meeting Schedule/next meeting</p> <p>Dates of meetings – Hummersknott Academy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 18th April 2024 – 10am • Thursday 20th June 2024 – 11am • Thursday 18th July 2024 – 10am
	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p>