

SCHOOLS FORUM HIGH NEEDS MONITORING SUB-GROUP

Darlington Town Hall – Committee Room 3

Thursday 16th January 2025 15.00 – 17.00

AGENDA

Item No.	Item	Paper	Decision required?	Lead
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies Declaration of business interests Any Other Business		No	Chair
2	Minutes of meeting held on 5 Dec 2024 and matters arising And Minutes summary (approved for Schools Forum Jan 25)	Yes	No	Chair
3	Forward Work Programme – Actions and Progress	No	Yes	Jo Littler
4	Resource Base Update	No	No	Jo Littler
5	Outreach Review Update	No	No	Jo Littler
6	Budget Setting 25/26	No	No	Emma Clennell
7	Meeting Schedule/next meeting (below)	No	No	Chair
8	Any other business			Chair

Dates of meetings 2024/25 – Town Hall

- Thursday 13th February 2-4pm
- Thursday 3rd April 12.30-2.30pm
- Thursday 8th May 1.30-3.30pm
- Thursday 19th June 3-5pm

Schools Forum High Needs Monitoring Sub-Group
Thursday 05 December 12-2pm
Hummersknott Academy

Summary of Meeting

Attendees and Apologies:

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

Local Authority:

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

Item No.	Item Discussion
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Register/Declaration of business interests – None Any Other Business – None</p>
2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 3 October 2024</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH updated on the transitional EBSA pilot ‘steps to secondary success’ project. • OT update It was confirmed that Anne Davison will invite the service to feedback on this item to SENCos. The Sensory SMART families support programme is valued, however, because this is for the family and parents, the group have some further feedback for the commissioners. <p>Action: HW to raise at joint commissioning group meeting January 2025</p>

	<p>WSOA - The WSOA monitoring visit took place, with acknowledgement that good progress has been made.</p> <p>Summary of Minutes - It was agreed that the minutes summary was suitable for the website and Schools Forum.</p>
3	<p>F/W Programme</p> <p>VPP spending is a pressure in the high needs block. Funded support includes for primary pupils on 6 day exclusions; and funded packages of support, of these some end dates needs to be confirmed. The group agreed the need for accountability of alternative provision placements. Placement planning for specialist placements in 2025 is on track, subject to consultations.</p> <p>A report on Beaumont Hill placements following the implementation of the memorandum of understanding relating to a minimum funding guarantee needs to be available for Schools Forum consideration at a future point.</p>
4	<p>Membership update</p> <p>James Keating sent apologies for the meeting but also due to his change of role in the Academy he will be vacating the secondary rep on the high needs subgroup. The vacancy will be taken to the Schools Forum in January 2025.</p> <p>Action: Clerk and Chair</p>
5	<p>Resource Base Update</p> <p>Heathfield base - Opening referrals for reception and nursery in January 2025. Dual registration benefits were discussed. Two full time pupils start in the New Year. SALT support is headlining the agenda of joint commissioning groups.</p> <p>Hurworth</p> <p>JL confirmed that conversations continue relating to the model of the base and outreach.</p> <p>Other - Expressions for interest for an ASD resource base have not been progressed as the LA are in discussions with Hurworth already.</p>
6	<p>Outreach Review Update</p> <p>All specifications have been refreshed for September 2024. There are no major changes proposed at this point with services. The review of services and monitoring of data is vital for developing a clear offer that is relatable to current needs. The LA are working towards an offer where schools are able to meet most needs in mainstream with enhanced offer which will include outreach.</p>
7	<p>Safety Valve</p> <p>The next report is due to be submitted for 13th December 2024. Current pressures in the main relates to VPP overspend as reported to Schools Forum already. This sets the priority for the VPP work. The SV Programme runs for another 3 academic years.</p>

6	<p>Forward Work Programme</p> <p>The following areas were discussed:</p> <p>Inclusion Charter – there is 100% sign-up to the charter. The group discussed how the data, intelligence and pilots / knowledge need to be pulled together. The group discussed regional inclusion data.</p> <p>EM updated on the EEF inclusion programme. A project team has been brought together and a launch meeting and first workshop will take place in January 2025.</p> <p>The group discussed other pilots/potential models for development including EBSA and AV1 ‘robot’ pilot ‘AVA’.</p> <p>EHCP placements EC confirmed that EHCPs are just under 12% increase, weighted mostly to nursery. There is however a 20% increase in mainstream. JL confirmed that LA are moving towards more jointly funded packages to support EHCP pupils in mainstream.</p> <p>Post 19 PLP offer JL confirmed that there is not a need for a funding model until September 2026. Pupils may be eligible for continuing care funding and adult social care. Independent support outcomes are as important as development of wrap around support.</p>														
7	<p>High Needs budget setting</p> <p>EC provided an overview of the current high needs budget. High needs block budget setting is normally set at the March Schools Forum. It was noted that the school block, central budget share and Early Years funding will come to Schools Forum in January.</p>														
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