

SCHOOLS FORUM HIGH NEEDS MONITORING SUB-GROUP

Darlington Town Hall – Committee Room 3

Thursday 13th February 2025 14.00 – 16.00

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 16 Jan 25 and matters arising And Minutes summary	Yes	No	Chair
3	Outstanding Actions Log	No	Yes	Chair
4	Resource Base and Outreach Services Term 1 Report	No	No	Helen Watson/Michele-Louisa Conley
5	Area SEND inspection of Darlington Local Area Partnership	No	No	Chair
6	School Forum recommendations	No	Yes	Jo Littler/Emma Clennell
7	High Needs Budget Analysis and Budget Setting 25/26	Yes	Yes	Emma Clennell
8	Meeting Schedule/next meeting (below)	No	No	Chair
9	Any other business			Chair

Dates of meetings 2024/25 – Town Hall

- 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 13 February 2025 2-4pm
Town Hall, COR3

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
Sally Hudson	Maintained	Rise Carr College (PRU)	Apologies
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
Michele-Louisa Conley	SEND Commissioning Manager	Attended

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>
2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 16th January 2025</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. The Chair highlighted outstanding actions from the actions log, updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensory SMART - OT update – it was confirmed by the DCO that the referral form has <p>Schools and families cannot refer for Sensory smart families. The DCO will confirm if it is possible to share information with schools.</p> <p>Action: JL and HW to continue to liaise with DCO and at higher level.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AV1 'robot' pilot 'AVA' – The trial is ongoing.. <p>Action: SH and JL update on continuing deployment and impact of AVA pilot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBSA pilot: in SH absence, the Chair updated the group. The pilot ran during transition 24/25. The individual impact was very good and will be offered again this year to other schools following offer day when pupil destinations are known. • 6 day cover: SH to update. DH confirmed that Heathfield have been offered further support for off site education. • VPP budget: drilled down data was requested by the Schools Forum and this is currently in progress for further clarity being available at the meeting in March. • BHA: The group discussed place expectations and the agreement for placements going forward (MOA). • Hurworth Resource Base: RS confirmed that Hurworth are awaiting further feedback from their proposal. • Peer Review: HW/JL confirmed that the LA has received funding for an external peer review of outreach services. It was noted that the consultant working with Gateshead has been appointed. The autumn term services report (as below) would be used as a baseline. <p>Action: JL to feedback on peer review as this progresses.</p> <p>It was confirmed that other actions in the outstanding actions log were included on the agenda.</p> <p>Summary of Minutes</p> <p>It was noted that the minutes summary from 16th January is now available on the website.</p>
3	<p>Resource Base and Outreach Services – Autumn Term Report</p> <p>Michele-Louisa Conley was welcomed to the meeting to present the summary of Autumn term monitoring.</p> <p>Some specific comments made were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where there are variations of contracts these would be presented to the high needs group. - Following the first term baseline, ongoing review will consider gaps/needs.
5	<p>Resource Base Update</p> <p>Heathfield base –dual registered approach is attractive for parents and interventions proving successful. All staffing is now in place and CPD package has been provided by the LA.</p> <p>Hurworth – JL confirmed that following initial scoping the LA needs additional clarifications and will continue to work with Hurworth. The aim is to reduce reliance on special school placements.</p>
6	<p>High Needs Budget 25/26</p> <p>It was noted that the current projection was a shortfall in the high needs budget for 25/26.</p> <p>The indicative pupil numbers for 2025/26 were discussed with a view to discuss the growth levels and pressures within the block. A document was prepared and circulated.</p>

	<p>Action: The sub-group requested that EC do some further analysis for growth projections prior to submission to School Forum.</p> <p>The group noted that schools are also investigating capital works as risk as there could be capital funding available for schools to invest in supporting more pupils in mainstream. EC agreed to discuss with Paul Richardson and report back on current position of capital programme funding.</p> <p>Action: EC discuss capital programme with PR.</p> <p>EC confirmed that due to the hold on development of free schools, the safety valve plan would need to be updated.</p>						
7	<p>Meeting Schedule/next meeting All future meetings will be at the Town Hall.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>High Needs Subgroup</th><th>Schools Forum Meeting date</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Thu 3rd April 12.30-2.30pm</td><td rowspan="3">• 3rd June 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Thu 8th May 1.30-3.30pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>• Thu 26th June 3-5pm</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	High Needs Subgroup	Schools Forum Meeting date	• Thu 3rd April 12.30-2.30pm	• 3rd June 2025	• Thu 8th May 1.30-3.30pm	• Thu 26th June 3-5pm
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8	<p>Any other business None</p>						