

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

7th March 2017

ITEM NO7

SCHOOL FORUM OFFICER WORK UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to update School Forum on the review of the high needs services and related activity.

Updates

2. The current position on places is outlined below.

Base	Commissioned Places	Actual Filled Number of Places Spring 2017	Confirmed Places to be taken up September 2017
Heathfield	16	13	9
Hurworth	14	13	12
Northwood	9	7	7
Mount Pleasant	20	18	13

3. The next scheduled panel will be held in May however an extra panel will be held for Hurworth in March.
4. The panel heard from Resource Base Managers that they felt the panel gave clarity to direction and a way in which to report back to the Local Authority on good progress made and as an opportunity to voice any concerns.
5. The Managers all agreed the need to evidence impact and the work to do this commenced at the Managers workshop last term. Managers measure and report progress in comparison to age related expectations and the Local Authority will undertake to track KS1 and KS2 SATS in the first instance.
6. The Social Communication, Speech and Language outreach services have been asked to build on their current service evaluation process in order to evaluate the impact of their advise and support on teaching and learning in the classroom.
7. As School Forum are aware, a programme is in place for ASD Leads for the third consecutive Academic Year. The purpose of the ASD Leads is to support a whole school approach to good teaching and learning practice for all students, with a focus on social and communication disorders. To support the ASD leads the Local Authority have agreed to organise an ASD Leads conference in Spring/Summer term 2017. The aim is to build the resources and capacity in Darlington to support a standard approach in all schools.

8. The Local Authority legal team have advised that contracts for the high needs services (Outreach Services, Durham Music Service, Travellers Service), will be required for 2017/18, and as previous years, an exemption from public procurement has been agreed by the Local Authority procurement board.
9. As the School Forum are aware the budget for Durham Music Service (DMS) is £18,000. This Spring term DMS has been providing support to FSM pupils in 30 different schools (133 pupils receive subsidised support for tuition and 98 for instrument hire) at a cost of £9,751. The annualised data will be reported at a future meeting, however, the School Forum are asked to note the cost of providing the service to schools for FSM pupils.
10. DMS will provide information on all the activities that Darlington children and young people have participated in and those activities that are planned for the future. This will be reported at a future meeting.

Future in Mind Projects

11. The projects to support children's mental health and wellbeing appear in the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health. A report on the mindfulness training will appear in the May edition of One Darlington magazine.
12. Internet safety is an element of schools response to the PREVENT duty. The Future in Mind funded e-safety peer mentoring project for primary schools is being developed in order for pupils to understand the risks associated with being online. The project will ensure that the PSHE curriculum and pastoral support in individual schools is based on the needs of learners.
13. The project is being run by the LA Families Intervention Team (Catherine Shaw) and delivered in schools where e-safety is an area of need identified through the Healthy Lifestyle Survey – 'team around the school' meeting. Schools will identify an e-safety champion. A group of identified Year 5 pupils will be trained as peer mentors, who will deliver e-safety lessons to year 3 and 4 pupils with a possibility of also engaging parents/carers in a workshop.
14. The programme will be for 6 weeks, 1.5 hours per week. This is a one-off opportunity and can be rolled out in 15 schools free of charge. The current year 4 pupils will become next year's year 5 peer mentors, enabling the projects to be self sustaining.

Recommendation

15. The School Forum to note progress on review of services and monitoring activity.

Eleanor Marshall - School Forum Monitoring & Support Officer