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**PRIMARY SPEECH AND LANGUAGE STRATEGY**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. As agreed at the March 2015 meeting, to present to Schools Forum a Speech and Language Strategy for consideration and agreement.

**Background**

2. As a consequence of the review of Speech and Language Resource Base and Outreach provision (Northwood School), a provision map has been developed and shown at Table 1 as part of the strategy attached at Appendix 1. This shows that the service supports at universal, targeted and specialist levels.
3. A key finding from the review included the need to make a more cohesive and understood position of Speech and language provision in the borough. This strategy sets out to summarise the current position, with actions moving forward for universal, targeted and specialist provision.
4. The strategy sets out how schools can support language development in the first phase of a systematic approach to reduce the impact of lower language competence.
5. It is recommended that schools@onedarlington adopt a strategic approach to Speech, Language and Communication needs. This is the best way to enhance and co-ordinate universal provision and provide support at an earlier stage of language development. A shared understanding of the role and services provided by the resource base can ensure there is no duplication of effort. By schools' adopting a common approach to the 'pathway' to access the resource base provision this will ensure children are prioritised and support directed in the right way.
6. This strategy will be monitored alongside actions for the Speech and Language base and outreach service as a first point in order to evaluate impact and review provision.

**Recommendations**

7. The School Forum should agree the strategy and note the actions as per 'way forward'.

**Eleanor Marshall**  
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