

# DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

16th May 2017

ITEM NO 6

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## SCHOOL FORUM OFFICER WORK UPDATE

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### 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.

### Service Updates

2. The May Resource Base panel is due to consider a number of applications and it is expected that places are to be either full or close to. The current position is as follows:

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 Local Authority have agreed that Heathfield Primary School will provide 4 places in KS1 in the nurture provision which is responsive to the particular needs of children showing signs of emotional stress and social difficulties.
4. The next term will consider completed self evaluations for all bases and outreach services. This will feed into the annual review and set planned activity identified within the evaluations for next Academic Year.
5. The resource base reporting process has been reviewed and will be implemented in the new Academic Year.
6. As reported at the last meeting, an ASD Leads conference/networking event is being considered. The aim is to link this with the Future in Mind transformation plan and Darlington's work in relation to Autism Friendly Towns. Options are being developed and funding sources explored. The planning is in early stages therefore this may be delayed until the new Academic Year.

### Durham Music Service

7. The School Forum Officer and Head of Education met with Durham Music Service (DMS). The actual cost of delivering music provision for FSM children exceeds the income received from the Darlington DSG remissions of £18,000. In terms 1 and 2 there is already a shortfall of £4,540. This is a pattern which is unsustainable for the DMS therefore the DMS wished to address the shortfall in the 2018-2020 funding cycle. However School Forum should note that as remissions funding is funded through the central block budget, this is fixed and will actually decrease over time. Any individual cost rises will need to be borne by schools. As such it is suggested that the Manager of DMS attend a future Joint Heads meeting.

8. The Head of Education Services or equivalent senior leader agreed to join the DMS Board from September 2017 and Darlington have been requested to secure secondary Head Teacher representation. It should also be noted that DMS have submitted an application for funding to Youth Music Funding for teaching music in the Early Years, with a focus on progression as opposed to one-off events. This will include training for Childminders.

### **Contract Reviews**

9. There are ongoing reviews on the specifications for 2017/18 for the Low Incidence Needs service, Travellers Education and Attainment service and the Beaumont Hill outreach services. This is in response to gaps in need, growth in need, statutory duty and staff capacity. Any changes to services will be agreed in the Summer term in readiness for the new Academic Year and updates will be provided for SENCO's. Separate papers have been prepared where services are requesting funding.
10. Contracts and service level agreements will be re-issued next term for the new Academic Year.

### **General updates**

11. A research paper is being prepared around incidence of disability and links to poverty. This was requested by the CYP Scrutiny when considering the Accessibility Strategy and will be reported at a future Scrutiny meeting. School Forum will be provided with the research findings.
12. A response to the Schools national funding formula (stage 2) consultation was submitted on behalf of the School Forum on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.
13. North of England Commissioning support (NECS) are currently working with Durham County Council looking at the therapy provision (occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech & language therapy) for children both in special schools and mainstream schools. The work was initiated because of parental demands to send children to independent sector providers and the costs and travel associated with this. The group are looking at whether or not needs can be met more locally which would be better short and long term for many of these children. NECS are seeking to re-design existing services rather than re-procure. Darlington's input has been requested to ensure the re-designed service meets the needs of Darlington rather than being designed purely around the needs of Durham.
14. NECS also wish to review the delivery of CAMHS services, we will ensure that schools are represented on any group discussions.

### **Future in Mind Projects Update**

15. **E-Safety Peer Support** - An SLA has been developed for the targeted schools where e-safety has been highlighted in the action plans following the Healthy Lifestyle Survey (HLS). Team Around the School (TAS) meetings are underway and the projects will be rolled out in the Summer Term. The Local Authority digital media resource, C:thebox, have written the peer support programme in such a way that it can fit any school model and is adaptable to their timetable and needs to support engagement.
16. At the last meeting, a question was raised by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People about the participation of schools in all of the Future in Mind projects. Five schools at the time had not participated in any of the projects. As some schools do not participate in the HLS they will not be eligible for the e-safety project, however all schools are invited to participate in the work of the Internet Safety Partnership, and the support offered from there. Further information on this can be sought from Catherine Shaw.
17. **The 'Mindful Schools' programme** is into its next stage of 'train the trainer', 3 day long courses arranged for May and June 2017. The commitment to the programme has been excellent, 41 staff out of 48 are still participating. One school to date has been unable to complete the

programme however staff are attending drop-in sessions with Mindful Therapies. The drop-in sessions provide support for staff after the 8 week personal programme, and re-inforce personal practice. Staff are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities, there are still three sessions available, but these will be reviewed after Easter considering take-up:

- Marchbank school – Mondays at 4.30-5.30pm
- Quaker meeting house – Mondays at 6-7pm
- Homes and Hospitals Teaching Service (Rise Carr College) – Fridays at 4-5pm

18. The objective of the Mindful Schools programme is for each school with trained staff to independently deliver Mindfulness courses by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. These courses will be monitored as the funders NHS England and Health Education England require us to report on the number of courses being delivered. An independent evaluation of the programme has not been commissioned, however, Mindful Therapies have been asked to include in the train the trainer sessions how schools can best evaluate impact. The Future in Mind implementation group would like schools to report on their evaluations, this will be undertaken in Spring Term 2017/18.
19. Schools that bid for the **peer support funding grant** in 2016 have now concluded their projects and evaluations will take place in the next term. End of project reports on spend with key achievements are currently being collated.
20. A meeting was held with NECS to review the funded projects and discuss future project ideas for funding. A project proposal has been developed with the Educational Psychology service to deliver training for a pilot of schools ‘**Emotional Learning Support Assistants**’. It should be noted this still requires NECS and LA approval.
21. The Future in Mind sub group would like to reconvene the schools consultation group in order to review the evaluations of the projects in schools to date, and also to consult with in terms of the other activities, particularly the review of CAMHS. This will be co-ordinated by the School Forum Officer.

### **Accessibility Strategy**

22. The Accessibility Strategy was considered at the Cabinet Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017. This will be sent to all schools.
23. The next steps are to provide one to one training meetings with maintained schools, set up for May / June 2017. The aim of these meetings are to support schools identify actions as relevant to needs of the school, and guide schools in the audit and review of their accessibility actions.
24. The contract for support for Accessibility has been extended to allow for further support as required, and to allow for monitoring support throughout next Academic Year.
25. A traded service for Accessibility training and support for Academy schools is available through the bulk services contract organised by DBC legal team.

### **Recommendation**

26. Darlington Schools to nominate through the 11-19 Partnership, a secondary school representative for the Durham Music Service board.
27. The School Forum to note progress on review of high needs services and related monitoring activity, strategy development, research and grant projects.

**Eleanor Marshall - School Forum Monitoring & Support Officer**