

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

15th October 2019

ITEM NO 7

SCHOOL FORUM (EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER) WORK UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is inform School Forum of current Education Partnerships Officer activity.

High Needs Services Review – Resource Bases

2. A review of the resource bases and associated outreach services in Spring 2018 formed part of the high needs review. This informed key recommendations which were widely consulted upon, and agreed by Cabinet in March 2019, as summarised in the Darlington Local Area Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) 2019 – 2022.
3. One of the challenges identified was that *'Our Resource Bases require a new remit and focus alongside effective outreach support provision (section 5 – Our Challenges and Opportunities)'*. The number of Children and Young People (CYP) that are accessing resource bases with EHCP's has increased, and a growing number of those CYP that join a primary resource base without an EHCP, do exit the base with an EHCP due to the complexity of their needs.
4. Objective 1 of the SEND Strategy **'Early identification of need ensuring that the right Children and Young People are in the right placement with the right support'** recognises that a priority action to ensure this happens includes the *'review of designation of all specialist settings including Resource Bases this will ensure Children and Young People access the right provision with the right support'*, therefore, from September 2019 the admission criteria of applications to resource bases is for CYP *primarily* having an Education, Health and Care Plan.
5. Resource Bases are intended to provide a mainstream model with supplementary provision to meet relative and specific needs as per the individual resource base outline.
6. CYP currently accessing a resource base that do not have an EHCP will not mandatorily be required to be assessed for a plan, unless their needs require this in the future. All new applications for resource bases will be routed through the EHCP process and therefore the resource base panel will no longer be required.
7. Placements will be available for Reception and Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 only, supporting the objective of ensuring that *'Resource Bases ... meet the growing complexity and increasing numbers of Children and Young People presenting with communication and interaction, social emotional and mental health, cognition and learning needs ..'* (SEND Strategy Objective 2 - **Building capacity in mainstream and specialist settings to support Children and Young People to be educated in their local community and to reduce reliance on out of area placements 0-25**).
8. Places must not be used for schools place pupils towards the end of their school career or the very end of KS2.
9. A resources review of all bases and outreach services will be held in the Autumn Term 2019.

Outreach Services – Update

10. There have been some amendments to the scope of delivery for some of the outreach services.
11. **Low Incidence Needs Service (Hurworth Primary School)** – this service now has a specific remit to support children to develop their personal mobility, navigation and orientation skills through **habilitation** training. The aims of the habilitation training is to reduce isolation and marginalisation that many children and young people suffer through sight loss and enhance their independence in order to reach their full potential and keep them in parallel to their sighted peers. LINS are also supporting a revised approach to the identification of CYP with **Multi Sensory Impairment** (see below).
12. **Cognition and Learning Service (Beaumont Hill Academy)** – this service is now offering training for nursery, primary and secondary settings. The service remit is to:
 - a. Support to teachers and teaching assistants to help with differentiation
 - b. Support with the use of appropriate classroom resources
 - c. Staff training to develop understanding of the needs of children with learning difficulties
 - d. Support with short term observations of children to develop an understanding of their extra needs in the classroom
 - e. Support with effective communication in the class-room
 - f. Support with sensory strategies to allow children to access learning
13. **Speech and Language Outreach** (Northwood Primary School) – the S&L outreach has been re-launched and will offer focused support for settings to adopt a ‘communication friendly school’ approach. The model is based upon work done by the Communication Trust and other specialist speech and language training programmes such as ELKLAN. Schools will be able to access a ‘communication friendly schools’ audit that can support them in developing their practice in this area.
14. **Social Communication Outreach Service/ASD Leads Training** (Hurworth School). Not all ASD leads attended the free training offer last year. The service will be auditing the reasons for this, and working with the LA will identify what gaps or other training needs there are in order to develop the training offer. All new ASD leads / SENCos will be offered training this autumn term.
15. **Multi Sensory Impairment** - Darlington’s education and social care teams have been working together to identify how in Darlington we need to move forward with understanding our MSI cohort, as CYP identified may need to have access to a Section 17 assessment. Recommendations are being developed for consideration by the LA in order to support education, social care and health in the better understanding of MSI and the Care Act 2014 responsibilities. The special school and Low Incidence Needs Service have been working together to review the potential caseloads. SENSE provide useful guides on MSI for example: <https://www.sense.org.uk/get-support/information-and-advice/support-for-children/send/>
16. All services can be accessed through making a referral via the Local Authority referral form (<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/darlington-special-educational-needs-service/additional-information/information-for-sencos/referral-forms-and-blank-templates/>).

Specialist Equipment Policy

17. The specialist equipment policy has been updated and can be found here (<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/darlington-special-educational-needs-service/additional-information/information-for-sencos/referral-forms-and-blank-templates/>). The application of the policy is built around the reasonable adjustment duty. The request for schools to contribute an arbitrary amount of £500 to each request has been waived however each application will be tested by the LA and contributions to equipment may be expected. The policy has also been updated to reflect guidance on insurance requirements.

GRT Education - Moving On, Aiming High! Project

18. The Careers Enterprise Funded project is supporting delivery of an innovative careers project to support the Traveller community CYP aged 11-18, promoting a cultural shift in attitudes to secondary and post 16 education.
19. Schools have been approached to support the activities this term particularly in order to deliver the following:

Aspiration Schools Event with Year 6 children will be held in Autumn Term 2019/20 at Northwood Primary School. This aims to bring together GRT students, parents/carers and families in a school environment, in a charity event where children will be able to dress up as what they 'would like to be'.

Training for Secondary School Staff – This additional training from the TEAS will provide training to support staff ensure that GRT pupils develop and enhance their practical skills whilst building up literacy, numeracy and transferable practical skills.

Circle of Friends' Peer Support in Schools - CYP from GRT communities can suffer social isolation; this item is being addressed as part of the 'Circle of Friends' project delivered by the LA Educational Psychology service. This will reach out to CYP who are electively home educated (EHE) and will also support schools to set up and/or embed peer support for GRT children to create school and college communities where children and young people feel it is safe to talk and where they believe they will be listened to.

20. Events will be held specifically for EHE children and young people:

Community Pop Up Events (Autumn Term 2019) will expose this hard to reach group to provide opportunities to become aware of future careers, which will raise aspirations and increase awareness.

Pop up school for GRT EHE Years 7-11 (January 2020) – The focus will be on increasing awareness of routes into employment and the ideal outcome to support development of careers plans subject to age and careers guidance best practice¹. We are working with QE inviting 6th formers to come and support the classroom activity as part of their work experience.

All these events will be advertised with posters, through link members of the GRT community, through the Facebook page which we invite visitors.

<https://www.facebook.com/Moving-On-Aiming-High-2541049522788807/>

¹ DFE statutory guidance 'Careers guidance and access for education and training providers' January 2018

Healthy Lifestyle Survey

21. Public Health have reviewed the Healthy Lifestyle Survey. This was to consider the size and complexity of delivery and identify the key questions and themes for the survey to achieve the original purpose of Social Norms approach. The results of the surveys, focus groups and TAS audits were triangulated to identify key themes in relation to the original objectives of the review.
22. In response to the key themes and specific issues raised in the review, recommendations for action have been identified. These actions will be reviewed by the Local Authority and implications for schools will be advised as soon as possible.

Future in Mind – Local Transformation Plan and related Joint Commissioning Activities

23. Building on work undertaken in Darlington through the Future in Mind Local Transformation Plan, various projects are being planned:
 - Mental Health Leads Network will be launched on 14th October 2019, at 3pm, with thanks to Northwood Primary school who will be hosting. The first meeting will give an opportunity to hear a keynote speaker from the Anna Freud Centre to promote the 'On My Mind' programme and resources to embed whole school approaches provided by the Anna Freud Centre.
 - A Children & Young People mental health workshop, led by the CCG, will be held this term. The workshop will help partners to understand the current offer across all providers in Darlington with key organisations presenting their offer. This is a partnership approach between Darlington CCG, Darlington Borough Council and Darlington Parent Carer Forum. The workshop will inform of any gaps/barriers in services/current provision and how we can work together as a partnership to overcome these.
 - Speech and Language review – following the review of SEMH support in schools which identified an opportunity for joint commissioning, the CCG are leading a review of speech and language support in Darlington. This is also an opportunity to review education provision in Darlington.
24. The School Forum are asked to note the activities as outlined in this report.

Eleanor Marshall
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