



Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group

Education and Skills Service

Meeting: Additional Educational Needs Sub Committee of the Schools Forum
Date: Wednesday 13th June 2018
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Ashington meeting Room, County Hall

Present: Keith Faulkner <i>Chair and Governor of Collingwood</i> Sam Barron <i>Head of SEND Strategy</i> Colin Bradshaw <i>HT Barndale</i> Suzanne Connolly <i>HT Felton First</i> Bruce Parvin , <i>Education & Skills Business Manager</i> Russell Pickering <i>Senior SEND Manager</i> Deborah Wylie <i>HT Cramlington Village Primary</i>	
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Notes Lisa Headington

Start time:	Action:
1. Welcome and Introductions	
2. In Attendance As above.	
3. Apologies: Marianne Allan, Sue Aviston, Tom Dexter, Emma Miller, Colin Pearson and Graham Wilkins.	
4. Membership update No update at present. We currently have 13 members.	
5. Declaration of personal or pecuniary interest in any agenda item. No declaration of pecuniary interest declared by members.	

6.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting/Matters arising from Previous Minutes:</p> <p>The minutes held on 7th March 2018 were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Any actions for Schools Forum will be taken to the next meeting in July.</p> <p>No update on membership.</p> <p>Keith Faulkner agreed to chair today's meeting in place of Graham Wilkins.</p> <p>Actions to be discussed as part of today's meeting.</p>	
7.	<p>SEN Data Update</p> <p>The latest SEN data report was shared with members to get their comments. The information given was drawn from the January 2018 school census. It has been identified that there is a gap between the number of children recorded as having top up and those on a plan. If a child has a plan it is vital for school census recording to be consistent.</p> <p>There has been little change in the data recorded from the May 2017 - January 2018 census for top ups and plans. Everybody in receipt of top up even if have a plan needs to be recorded in census. True top ups without plans is 425 in January census.</p> <p>SB confirmed that there is a shorter term focussed intervention being launched within SEND called STAR (Short Term Additional Resource).</p> <p>Current children with top ups (and no plan) will continue with this arrangement, until they are reviewed over the next academic year with a view to converting to an EHCP, STAR or ceased.</p> <p>SC asked how this is going to make a impact. Strengthening the review process is central to this. SB confirmed that the changes to the SEND processes and systems will be shared with SENCOs at the SEND conference on Friday 6th July 2018. There will also be additional sessions on the new process after the SEND Conference for those schools who were unable to attend. General discussion re evidencing the impact of interventions being difficult for some groups eg SEMH and supporting schools with this will be the focus of work through the SENCO forums in the Autumn term 2018.</p> <p>SB clarified the purpose of the SEND Commissioning Panel is to recommend to the Council how to allocate resources and funding to</p>	

<p>meet need. There is therefore a need for consistent representation from Headteachers, Senior Leaders and SENCO's are to attend the panel to provide professional challenge. The terms of reference have been reviewed and updated for the panel which has resulted in a clarity over each professionals contribution and consistent representation from health and social care colleagues.</p> <p>DW queried the consistency of members for the panel. SB confirmed that the panel will be on a Wednesday 2.30pm-4.30pm and are asking reps to commit to half a term or at least 4 weeks to enable consistent decision making. There will be a training session for people attending panel which will also be open to other people to attend to enable a better understanding of the panel and how decisions are made.</p> <p>DW raised an issue that she has more children on top ups due to the timescale for a plan and asked whether there is an opportunity for short term support to access until a plan can be organised. It was confirmed that there needs to be evidence of a graduated approach, and that needs are dealt with on a case by case system. SB suggested to have a separate conversation regarding issues raised and asked DW to email her.</p> <p>DW also raised the issue of top ups being declined regarding a child in her school with complex needs and not having the funding and the issue of EHCP having a long timescale. It was suggested the new STAR system will assist moving forward. RP stated that there needs to be and will be flexibility in the system for an emergency. There will however be an overlap with the old system but it is envisaged that the new system will provide audit trails and governance re financial decisions made.</p> <p>With effect from September 2018 if the council issues a decision and a school does not agree. There is also a statutory appeal process available for parents and carers.</p> <p>Nationally, SB shared that Northumberland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● is below the national average for the numbers of pupils at SEN Support / EHCP's ● is above the national average for the number of EHCP's it issues ● is 15% above the national average for the number of pupils with plans it places in special schools <p>This means that Northumberland is issuing too many plans and schools are more likely to apply for a plan than meet needs at SEN Support indicating inconsistent inclusive practice across schools. Discussion re role of SEND Support Services in supporting pupils to remain at SEN Support in mainstream schools. This year there have</p>	
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been a number of schools who bought significant packages but did not use their days. It appears that some schools are buying in time and storing it to use when there is a crisis rather than strategically using the time to develop skills and knowledge of staff to support pupils with SEN.

Discussion that there are too many children have gone through the system needing special provision and that something in between is needed eg ARP - Additionally Resourced Provision where pupils attend for 50% of the time and integrate into mainstream for the rest. Building more Special Schools is not necessarily the answer. Data is being collated to enable the Council to strategically plan the next consultation on developing specialist provision.

BP confirmed the data observations on the two sheets of grids shows proportionately more EHCP's at Secondary, but higher Top Up figures (without Plans) at Primary.

SB confirmed that EHCP's are going up in Secondary, and that data is being collected through the commissioning panel which is providing a better picture of what is happening on the ground. Some schools apply a lot for additional support and some very little. This will be analysed over the summer holidays and shared with schools.

Import/export document

BP shared a import/export adjustment document with members which shows an adjustment to the high needs block depending on pupil residency in Northumberland that are being educated in Northumberland.

1072 imports not plans in receipt of top up's.
1784 exports leaving Northumberland with top ups (internal special school places)
We provide 1622 in Northumberland.

Spreadsheet shows

- School Name
- Total pupils on roll
- True or False if recorded as having top ups/plans
- True%
- Number of statements plans, E & S codes included

Schools need to record plans and top ups on census to be consistent.

Imports and top ups minus import should be the same.
Import figure recorded top ups in school.

	<p>Certain schools have a reputation of having a lot of SEND children because of their success.</p> <p>It was suggested to cross reference with commissioning panel information that would be helpful and to go through proportion of top ups.</p> <p>Angela Davies and Nicola Taylor are visiting schools regarding new paperwork and any data will be shared.</p> <p>BP mentioned about looking at length of time top ups have been running for. It was suggested that information be provided as to the length of time a Top Up had been in place without a Plan.</p> <p>SB confirmed an intention to review top ups.</p> <p>RP mentioned that the SEN Team are under huge pressure and there is a capacity issue due to staff turn over and currently looking at how we can resolve this.</p>	BP
8.	<p>Top up funding banding review</p> <p>BP highlighted the document circulated to members which highlighted potential changes to the current mainstream schools bandings.</p> <p>Discussions ensued debating how available funding could be fairly targeted towards those pupils who most needed it. Potential proposals included the introduction of a new level of support for those pupils in receipts of more than 1 hours, receiving an additional £600.00 (tier 3 funding, over and above the notional SEN Support of £6,000 per pupil in the overall School Budget.</p> <p>Calculations were shared showing respective bandings. Other tiers had increased. The level of support was based on lower number of hours within the band in order to avoid any issues at the threshold points</p> <p>BP suggested looking at the DFE bulletin practice suggestions - BP to share.</p>	

	<p>From September 2018 EHCP will be required to have a higher degree of specificity about what interventions are currently being provided and what additional support is required. Monitoring is also crucial to ensure information is current and correct.</p> <p>It was suggested it maybe useful using SEND Support Team or SIP Team for monitoring and moderation visits to assist with the SEND teams capacity challenges.</p> <p>BP to circulate documents discussed today to those not at meeting for information.</p> <p>Action : There was discussions among the group which subsequently asked that Russell and Bruce consider any available information, in order to provide a workable solution from September 2018, taking into consideration practice in other LAs. This may involve the current hourly bandings and simply looking at the rates paid at the respective levels.</p>	<p>RP</p> <p>BP</p> <p>BP & RP</p>
9.	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>There was no other business discussed.</p>	
10	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>A provisional date of Wednesday 12th September at 9.30am was agreed.</p>	
End: 11.35am		