



# Northumberland County Council

## Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group

Education and Skills Service

Meeting: Additional Educational Needs Sub Committee of the Schools Forum  
Date: 7th November 2018  
Time: 1.30pm  
Venue: Chairman's Dining Room

<p><b>Present:</b>  <b>Graham Wilkins</b> (Chair, Governor, St Wilfrid's RC VA Primary )  <b>Colin Bradshaw</b> (HT Barndale)  <b>Samantha Barron</b> (Head of SEND Strategy)  <b>Emma Miller</b> (DH and SENDCO Pegswood Primary)</p>	<p><b>Zephanie Parkin</b> (School Funding and Business Relationship Manager)  <b>Bruce Parvin</b> (Education &amp; Skills Business Manager)  <b>Russell Pickering</b> (Senior SEND Manager)</p>
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Notes Lisa Headington

<b>Start time:</b>		<b>Action:</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
2.	<b>In Attendance:</b>  As above	
3.	<b>Apologies:</b>  Sue Aviston, Suzanne Connolly, Keith Faulkner, Colin Pearson, Deborah Wylie.	
4.	<b>Membership Update</b>  No update on current membership as no further interest received.  Secondary representative involvement required and from the west.	
5.	<b>Terms of Reference</b>  Terms of Reference circulated to members and agreed.	
6.	<b>Declaration of personal or pecuniary Interest in any agenda item.</b>  No declaration of pecuniary interest declared by members.	

7.	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting/Matters arising from Previous Minutes:</b></p> <p>pg4 additional provision - confirmed that Hexham Priory is open and the Dales is still under discussion.</p> <p>pg6 - Capital Funding bid - it was confirmed that we did prepare and submit a capital bid and are awaiting outcome.</p> <p>The minutes held on 12th September 2018 were accepted as a true record.</p>	
8.	<p><b>SEN DATA Update</b></p> <p>BP shared a report with members regarding the latest SEN data for Northumberland and nationally.</p> <p>Feedback from the Northern Regional Group showed that there is common problems relating to the high needs block. At the Group there had been some discussions about how to support the Regional ADCS group in compiling evidence in relation to the increasing pressures.</p> <p>What is the key evidence to co-ordinate on a regional basis for Northumberland - current overspend three main areas are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase in permanent exclusions</li> <li>2. Increase school placements</li> <li>3. Increase in activity re EHCP increase</li> </ol> <p>In Northumberland we support a far higher % of SEN Children in special schools. SB commented that the EHCP National average in SEN schools is 25% we are over 40%, and we need to consider why this is the case. We are one of the highest %s in the country and need to support more children in mainstream schools. Parental choice is often a key driver whereas historically the request may have been for a pupil to stay in mainstream.</p> <p>The national SEN2 data was reviewed -</p> <p>11.3 % increase Nationally 13.6% increase for Northumberland.</p> <p>This was January 2018 data showing Northumberland had 1907 EHC Plans, up from 1,679 12 months previously. Current numbers were in excess of 2,000.</p> <p>.</p>	

	<p>SB stated that those in FE aged 19-25 were increasing in number and were often expensive placements,, without the necessary additional resources to support these.</p> <p>There are clear challenges in relation to shared cases with Social Care and Health, families are looking to keep young people in educational settings longer which is an additional expense.</p> <p>SB commented that the inspection looked at the graduated approach and ensuring consistency arising from a review of the SEND Commissioning Panel, but this has only recently been introduced so difficult to gauge impact at this stage. Some schools had previously rushed through plans on old paperwork prior to new system starting.</p> <p>New paperwork gives accurate picture but needs more detail.</p> <p>GW highlighted the importance of schools looking to support their SEN pupils, despite increasing resource pressures but wondered if this was consistent through all schools nationally.</p> <p>Information would also be provided to Schools Forum.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Draft SEN Payment Policy</b></p> <p>Following previous discussions at AEN Committee, a DRAFT SEN Funding Payment policy was circulated for discussion.</p> <p>It was important to highlight the potential financial issue in implementing this in full, the potential costs were £680,000, which meant this was not financially viable given the current High Needs pressures.</p> <p>Comments were sought as to how this could be phased or introduced over time without generating the same financial liabilities. How can we implement this?</p> <p>SB suggested looking at the numbers we have.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Too many plans, too many in special schools</li> <li>● Sort out band 4 &amp; 5 bandings in first year!</li> <li>● Making sure paid accurately for top bands first</li> <li>● Looking at most vulnerable group then plan for those after that.</li> <li>● Issue only get 39 cases right if paperwork right the panel.</li> </ul> <p>BP suggested to look at band 5 first as more manageable cohort (39 cases), any lessons learned could then be applied as we looked at greater number of cases in the other bands,</p>	

	<p>CB commented about supporting the right children with specialist input, and agreed that children should be in mainstream as long as they could be effectively supported there. He confirmed greater parental demand for special schools places than in the past.</p> <p>It was agreed that the 39 cases identified in Mainstream School Band 5 should be reviewed first and then feedback provided to AEN Committee.</p>	<p>RP / BP</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>2018/19 High Needs Revenue Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>Figures were circulated highlighting a £2.4 million overspend. The 3 key pressures were evident in the figures in Appendix A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increases in Permanent Exclusions;</li> <li>● Increasing numbers of Independent Sector Special School places</li> <li>● Increased levels of SEN Funding to support children and young people with EHC Plans and in receipt of Top Up or STAR Funding without a plan.</li> </ul> <p>These were essentially demand led pressures, the higher levels of spending were not related to staffing pressures or similar.</p> <p>The position was exacerbated by the fact that provisional 2019/20 High Needs figures indicated that Northumberland would not receive an increase, High Needs funding had not increased since the baseline exercise of 2017/18.</p> <p>CB commented special schools have the same figures per pupil since 2013 and asked how we can find extra.</p> <p>More details regarding overall Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to go to Schools Forum.</p> <p>Need to look at transitional plan over 2-3 years 2019/20 - 2021/22.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Provisional 2019/20 High Needs Block Funding</b></p> <p>The detail behind the calculation of Northumberland's provisional 2019.20 High Needs Block figure was circulated. Because of projected future falls in our 2-18 population figure and the influence of the historic factor, Northumberland was not due to receive any uplift for 2019/20. Much of the detail was influenced by deprivation data, (not SEND data) and so Northumberland did not benefit from the allocation mechanism.</p>	

	<p>It was evident that the solution to the High Needs pressures was not likely to come from significant additional DfE funding in the near future.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p><b>Any other Business:</b></p> <p>The High Needs Place Numbers for Academies and post 16 were due for submission to the DfE</p> <p>BP - After agreeing the budget submission for January and working on schools block and high needs it was proposed to have a joint meeting for AEN and FF members on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 3.00pm and if we can resolve via e-mail will cancel it.</p>	
	<p><b>End: 2.50pm</b></p> <p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting: Provisional date of Tuesday 8th January 2019, @ 3.00 pm, depending on whether a meeting is required ahead of the next Schools Forum on Wednesday 16th January 2019</b></p>	