



<b>Schools Forum</b> Date: 27 November 2014 Time: 8.30 am Venue: Shrewsbury Training and Development Centre, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury	<u>Item</u>	<u>Paper</u>  <b>D</b>
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## **SEND FUNDING TASK & FINISH GROUP**

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### **Summary**

At their meeting on 18 September 2014 Schools Forum agreed to the reconvening of the former High Needs Task & Finish Group to consider the way in which the funding for specialist and alternative provision in Shropshire is funded, and to prepare to respond to the proposed Government review on the funding arrangements from the High Needs Block following their recent review of the funding distributed via the Schools Block.

The Government is referring to changes in SEND (special educational needs and disability) funding and so the group has been renamed the SEND Funding Task & Finish Group.

This report provides feedback from the first meeting of the group.

### **Recommendation**

To note the terms of reference and work programme for the SEND Funding Task & Finish Group.

## **REPORT**

1. The SEND Funding Task & Finish Group had their first meeting on 19 November 2014 and agreed the Terms of Reference for the group (attached to this report). The Terms of Reference include an initial project timetable, which allows for regular reports to Forum. The activities and length of term of the group will be largely determined by the Government timeline for reforming SEND funding. The expectation is that the group will be operational well into the next parliamentary term.

2. The group will require a nomination from secondary school/academy headteachers, as well as a nomination from secondary school/academy governors. While it is preferable that they are drawn from the membership of Schools Forum, co-opted members would be possible if the nominees are able to bring to the group relevant experience and understanding of SEN.
3. The Department for Education has launched a paper on 13 November 2014 entitled *SEND funding: longer-term changes* (copy attached). The paper is calling for evidence and support in helping the department to distribute SEND funding more fairly in the future. This will be the focus of the immediate work of the Task & Finish Group, with a response date of 27 February 2015, addressing the 18 specific questions raised which cover: the national to local level funding distribution, the local to institution level funding distribution and the local authorities' approaches to capital investment.
4. While the Task & Finish Group will co-ordinate and draft a response (to be shared with Forum at their meeting on 22 January 2015), any views or comments from other members of Schools Forum or from the wider school community are welcomed and can be fed through to the group.
5. The minutes of the 19 November 2014 meeting are attached for information.