



Schools Forum Date: 9 June 2016 Time: 8.30 am Venue: Shrewsbury Training and Development Centre, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury	<u>Item</u>	<u>Paper</u> F
--	-------------	------------------------------

HIGH NEEDS AND EARLY HELP TASK & FINISH GROUPS

Responsible Officer Phil Wilson

e-mail: phil.wilson@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: (01743) 254344 Fax (01743) 254538

Summary

At their meeting on 17 March 2016 Schools Forum agreed to the re-establishment of the High Needs Task & Finish Group and the establishment of a separate Early Help Task & Finish Group. This report provides draft Terms of Reference for each of the groups for Forum's consideration, including suggested membership and a project timetable.

Recommendation

To approve the Terms of Reference, membership and project timetable for the High Needs and Early Help Task & Finish Groups.

REPORT

1. On 17 March 2016 Schools Forum agreed to the establishment of two separate Task & Finish Groups to undertake reviews in relation to High Needs funding and the use of resources to support Early Help. The work of both groups will be impacted upon by the implementation of the Government's schools funding reforms and move towards a national funding formula, changes in education policy as outlined in the Education White Paper (*Educational Excellence Everywhere*), and the continued pressure on public expenditure, in particular in relation to local authority funding.
2. The re-established High Needs Task & Finish Group will review the current application of High Needs funding and the arrangements for reporting and monitoring spend. The Early Help Task & Finish Group will undertake a review of the current application of resources to support Early Help, how the additional £600k released in Dedicated Schools Grant in 2016-17 is applied to existing contracts and services, and to look at the opportunities for joint commissioning Early Help services going forward.

3. Draft Terms of Reference for the two groups are attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. The drafts include the suggested membership of the group and an outline project timetable, allowing for regular progress reports to Schools Forum. The first meetings of the groups have been diaried for Tuesday 14 June 2016.