



Schools Forum

Date: 7 November 2019

Time: 8.30am

Venue: Guildhall, Shrewsbury

Item

Public

Paper

D

HIGH NEEDS FUNDING TASK & FINISH GROUP UPDATE

Responsible Officer Julia Dean

e-mail: julia.dean@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: (01743) 254552

Summary

This report is to update Schools Forum on the outcomes of the meetings of the High Needs Funding Task & Finish Group, who have met on two occasions since Forum received the last report in June 2019 and agreed to the continuation of the group.

The notes of the meetings on 24 September 2019 and 15 October 2019 (draft), are appended to this report (Appendix 4).

Recommendation

Schools Forum are asked to receive this report for information.

REPORT

Report Period: June to October 2019

Key priorities:

1. To agree short term measures that will increase capacity at the Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service (pupil referral units/alternative provision) without placing additional burden on the High Needs Block in order to enable the local authority to meet its statutory responsibilities in relation to:
 - 6 day provision
 - arranging a suitable education for children who are not well enough to attend school
 - placement of children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
 - placement of children who are looked after.
2. Support schools to meet the needs of children who:
 - are at risk of permanent exclusion
 - require specific intervention for a time limited period to support positive behaviour management.

3. Develop a Shropshire high needs funding protocol to explain how the high needs funding system operates locally.

Key actions and outcomes this period:

Priorities 1 & 2

Questionnaire (Appendix 1) circulated to schools to elicit views regarding outline proposals for TMBSS primary and secondary models with the aim of increasing capacity to meet key priorities identified above.

Summary of responses (full report Appendix 2 and 3)

- Majority of respondents agreed with the suggested primary model (81% positive or very positive).
- Majority of respondents favoured option 1 of the secondary models (62% positive or very positive). However, comments identified that there would be a concern about adopting the same model for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.
- Majority of respondents (54%) agreed that they would be prepared to contribute toward the cost of an alternative provision intervention placement at TMBSS.
- 91% of respondents agreed that the development of an outreach model of delivery would be positive.

Priority 3

Draft protocol shared and key areas agreed.

Actions for next period:

Agree content of consultation document to include:

- primary model
- secondary model with Key Stages 3 and 4 options
- proposed outreach models
- proposed financial models

Draft high needs funding protocol.