



**Schools Forum**  
20 June 2018

**Report from the Strategic Director  
of Children and Young People**

**High Needs Task and Finish Group Report**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	N/A
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	One: • Low Cost High Incidence Financial Support
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Andrew Ward, Head of Finance Email: <a href="mailto:andrew.ward@brent.gov.uk">andrew.ward@brent.gov.uk</a> Tel: 0208 937 6462

### 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. This report provides an update to the Schools Forum on the work of the High Needs Task and Finish Group comprised of forum members and advised by officers from both the Finance and Inclusion services.

### 2. Recommendation

2.1. It is recommended that the report be noted, and that the group is retained to monitor the post 19 high needs review and recommend a 2019/20 High Needs block budget.

### 3. Detail

3.1. The group last met in May 2018 and has continued its work on the development projects funded by the reserves earmarked for High Needs. This brief report covers the progress made on;

- The Inclusion Support Panel
- The review of post 19 provision
- The Low Cost High Incidence SEND Funding support model

3.2. The Inclusion Support Panel will allocate funds of up to £250k to support schools in improving their capacity to provide for SEND pupils. The Head of Inclusion has written to all schools to advise on how to bid for the available funding. Allocations will be agreed and confirmed to schools in the autumn term.

3.3. A draft specification for the post 19 years' provision was presented to the group and refined. It was agreed that an independent consultant would be recruited to begin work in the autumn term so that a report could be presented to the

December 2018 Schools Forum. It was also agreed that the ground work in compiling the relevant statistics and other information held by the council would be undertaken by Finance and Inclusion colleagues over the summer period.

- 3.4. The Low Cost High Incidence funding support model was reviewed. This funding is aimed at supporting those schools which have upon their roll a significantly higher than average rate of pupils with additional needs who are not otherwise supported by additional funding. It is recognised that some schools can attract a higher incidence of SEND pupils and that this imposes a financial cost upon those schools. The former model operated by using the SEND register as a proxy indicator and allocating funds to those schools which had 4% or more of pupils on the register. This model only allocated £30k in 2017/18, and would result in zero allocations in 2018/19.
- 3.5. This model required review as no schools surpassed the 4% threshold, yet colleagues felt a number of schools were impacted by low cost high incidence SEN. Options were presented to the task and finish group, and a decision was made to increase the funding available to £120k, and to support the 15% of schools with the highest levels of SEND registered pupils. Appendix A confirms the allocations made by this model; 11 schools receive between £9K and £13K.
- 3.6. The group also had an initial discussion on the 2019/20 budget. It identified areas of pressure and some opportunities for further consideration. It will reconvene and continue this discussion in the autumn term.
- 3.7. It is noted that the £1M of reserves earmarked for High Needs is not yet fully committed, and at least £0.5M is available for further development projects or to mitigate overspends.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1. These are contained throughout the report.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1. There are no legal implications for this report.

#### **6. Equality Implications**

6.1. Not applicable.

#### **7. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1. Not applicable.

#### **8. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

8.1. Not applicable.

**Report sign off:**

**Gail Tolley**

Strategic Director of Children and Young People