

# Notes of High Needs Funding Sub Group

Monday 15 May 2023 - 16.30 – 17.30 via Teams

**Present:** Paul Walker (Chair), Jackie Ross, Gill Loman, Alex Walmsley, Fay Bowler, Gemma Rolstone, Adrian Hines, Penny Hammett, Rob Gasson, Keith Bennett, Jamie Stone

**Apologies:** Heidi Watson-Jones,

		<b>Actions:</b>
1.	<p><b>Actions and Matters Arising from last meeting (25 April 2023)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AP/Inclusion</b> - Matthew Shanks to be invited to next meeting to discuss the vision and plans shared with schools on 17 March.</li> <li>• Savings not achieved in previous financial year to be restated in 2023/24 totalling £25m</li> <li>• <b>DfE Safety Valve</b> still not agreed – SEND Planning week taking place at County Hall to review the current proposals and re-focus ambitions for SEND. The group felt that it was unfortunate that the High Needs Funding Sub Group members were not invited to be involved.</li> <li>• Safety Valve update to be shared when available – will be helpful to identify the risk to school budgets should the Safety Valve not be agreed.</li> <li>• <b>Sufficiency Strategy</b> – North Devon, South Devon, Tavistock and Post-16 offer will be key areas of consideration.</li> <li>• <b>2023 Funding Consultation</b> discussion on 0.5% funding transfer. Concerns shared previously that the unintended consequence of a schools-block transfer could result in significant reductions in SEN support and direct resourcing (e.g. TAs) at school level, exacerbating the current position.</li> <li>• Understand Team Around the School visits to South Devon primaries be prioritised – position to be clarified. Concerns shared that progress needs to be achieved as a matter of priority.</li> </ul>	<b>HWJ (complete)</b>
2.	<p><b>Update from Safety Valve Project Review (SEND Gold Command Finance)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND Planning involving a range of DCC colleagues.</li> <li>• Looking more closely at plans for wider developments for future safety valve projects.</li> <li>• PW &amp; KB invited to participate in face to face discussion around current safety valve projects.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Robust Commissioning of Resourced Provision, AP and Satellite provisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robust commissioning of resource bases will be based on a specification of:</li> <li>• Wide curriculum   50% of time spent in the resource base and 50% in the mainstream classroom   Specialist teachers with proven success</li> <li>• Locality-based needs analysis to inform decision making about location of new provision. (regression analysis by Mime, exclusions and attendance, and EHCP data by Local Learning Community). Data based on needs of children currently in mainstream and EOTAS.</li> <li>• South, Exmouth and Axe Valley identified as particular areas requiring additional provision.</li> <li>• Need to consider areas where children are repeatedly being placed in independent settings due to lack of provision,</li> </ul>	

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	<p>and particular year group / cohorts (particular need for secondary provision)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION: GL</b> to share data table with the group.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION: GL</b> to overlay data on a map to illustrate clearly the areas of need</li> <li>• Mindful of possible further capacity for expansion of existing special schools.</li> <li>• Considered discussing identified local needs with local Heads to jointly agree how this can best be managed and taken forward across local schools.</li> <li>• Need to develop a process for identifying children who will be best served in a more supportive resource base environment – possibly through annual review process.</li> <li>• Discussed anticipating need – avoiding independent placements / ensuring secondary resource bases in place.</li> <li>• Mindful of need for academy schools to go through significant change processes with RD office.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION: JR / GL</b> to provide paper for next meeting summarising the data and geographical areas of need identified. This would then need to be shared with schools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GL</b> <b>GL</b></p> <p><b>JR / GL</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>AOB</b> <b>SEND Board</b> – looking at resource required to strengthen early intervention and EHCP processes <b>Schools Block transfer</b> – requested modelling on the impact of the transfer on individual school budgets.</p>	

## Future meetings:

- **Mon 5 June (16.00 – 17.30) via Teams –**
  - Focused discussion on Team Around the School and
  - communications ahead of autumn consultation
- **Mon 26 June (13.00 – 15.00) Face to Face – County Hall – room tbc**