

**SCHOOLS FORUM – London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham**  
**REPORT BY TRI-BOROUGH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SEN & VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

**HIGH NEEDS – FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2014/2015**

This report;

- \* Summarises LBHF short term contingency funding agreements following implementation at the start of the academic year 2014/15 – for comment.
- \* Provides an update on the implementation of an enhanced SEN Early Years local offer through implementation of block HNB contingency funding – for comment
- \* Provides an update on resources allocated through Local Authority statement of SEN or EHC resource allocation agreements September 2014/April 2015

## **Introduction**

1. The Children & Families Act was enacted from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. The change in legislation brings with it duties on the Local Authority to:
  - 1.2. publish a Local Offer of provision for children and young people 0-25 with special educational needs and consult with parents and young people on the Local Authority
  - 1.3. Transfer children with a statement of SEN to an Education, Health and Care (Sept 2014-April 2018)
  - 1.4. Undertake new single education, health and care assessment for children with a learning difficulty
  - 1.5. Offer a personal budget to those young people issued with an EHC Plan
2. The Local Authority has high aspirations for children with SEN and as such the strategic approach to High Needs Funding that has been adopted to date has been based on the premise that there is a continuum of local provision for local children funded from the High Needs Block, which, in the long term, supports young people with SEN in gaining employment and becoming independent in or near their local community.
3. The London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham is keen to support early years settings, schools and FE providers in having a well resourced Local Offer to meet children's additional learning needs. The London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham has the following specialist provision:

- 3.2. An autism special school – Queensmill
  - 3.3. A primary autism resource base at Fulham Primary School (Queensmill)
  - 3.4. A secondary autism resource base at Fulham College Boys (Queensmill)
  - 3.5. A KS1 speech, language and communication resource base at Miles Coverdale School
  - 3.6. Jack Tizard Special School (SLD/PMLD)
  - 3.7. Wood Lane High School (MLD/SPLD)
  - 3.8. Cambridge School (MLD/SEBD)
  - 3.9. Access to a further range of statefunded specialist education provision in RBKC and WCC.
4. The premise underpinning High Needs Funding is that the majority of children have their additional learning needs met in mainstream schools from available resources (notional SEN budget Element 2) and interim SEN contingency funding (Element 3) with provision for the children with complex needs such that they have an Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or statement of SEN funded through Top Up (Elements 4 and 5) – see previously circulated diagram.

#### **High Needs Block short term contingency funding – see appendix i**

5. From September 2014, to support schools in providing responsive intervention for children with a continuum of needs a contingency fund of £200K high needs funding was identified for schools and an additional £200K contingency for Early Years (pro rata – Sept-March @ 7/12ths.. The purpose of the contingency fund is to support the achievement of specific outcomes through targeted intervention for children with SEN in schools for whom provision cost more than £6000 (notional SEN budget) and less than £12,000 (statement of SEN funding). Short term contingency funding can be accessed through a request made to the SEN Service and agreed based on the feedback of EHC Panel members.
6. For children in early years settings the short term contingency funding request is for the full cost of intervention as there is no notional SEN budget allocation for early years providers.
7. The short term contingency request form has been revised to clarify the distinction between school and early years applications and with the support of the High Needs Block Reference Group members from across different Boroughs. (See attached).
8. Requests for short term contingency funding have increased during the academic year with few requests during the autumn term 2014 and an increase since January 2015.
9. Please find attached a summary of all contingency funding requests received and the financial implications.
10. It is proposed that this approach continue during 2015/16 with regular feedback and the opportunity of the HNB Reference Group to review decisions. **Does Schools Forum agree this proposal?**

## **Funding for Early Years Enhanced SEN offer**

11. It has been identified by the Early Years Sector that upfront and early intervention achieves better outcomes for children.
12. To enable the Local Authority to offer enhanced SEN provision in a small number of Early Years settings which act as hubs of expertise for other settings within a wider geographical area Early Years High Needs Block Reference Group members have developed a set of criteria for allocating three EY settings in LBHF to deliver an enhanced SEN local offer over a three year period.
13. It is proposed that the opportunity to apply for the funding to deliver an Early Years enhanced SEN Local Offer is offered for a time-limited period ending in July. The EY High Needs Reference Group propose that the decision regarding allocation of funds was made by a panel of LA officers, including an educational psychologist, LA senior officer for SEN, a school standards early years' adviser, the designated clinical officer and a commissioning officer.
14. Each of the identified early years settings will be funded £40K per annum to provide an enhanced SEN Offer as per the attached outline. This will be funded from a High Needs Block contingency allocation.
15. Schools Forum is asked to agree the proposed way forward.