

<p style="text-align: center;">Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOLS FORUM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 July 2019</p>	
Department for Education DSG Recovery Plan	
Open Report	
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Purpose of the report

This report informs Schools Forum of the proposed response to the DfE's request for a DSG Recovery Plan.

1. Context

- 1.1 The Department for Education (DfE) have asked all Local authorities with cumulative High Needs Block deficits of 1% of their total annual allocation or more to submit a 'recovery plan'.
- 1.2 The stated aim of the recovery plan as determined by the DfE is for local areas to demonstrate how they will reduce expenditure against the High Needs Block so as to close any annual overspend against their allocation, and recover any cumulative deficit owed to the DfE within a 3 year period.
- 1.3 The DfE have asked for plans to be submitted by the end of June with sign-off from the Local Authority's Chief Finance Officer and Assistant Director for SEND. Local Authorities are also asked to consult with their Schools Forum, regarding details of plans. We propose submitting our plan shortly following Schools Forum on 2nd July.

2. Summary of LBHF's return

- 2.1. Several phase one mitigations to reduce pressures on the High Needs Block have already begun and these are listed in the recovery plan along with associated financial projections of their effect. These initiatives include plans

for additional income generation, recharges to other local authorities for use of LBHF services, and reallocation between blocks.

- 2.2. Whilst listed mitigations will have an effect on the overspend, they will not close the HNB funding gap in its entirety, and we have projected the cumulative deficit increasing accordingly. It is recognised that more work can and should be done to reduce the very significant pressures on the High Needs Block and we will be working with the local area over the next year to examine how we can maintain or improve services to young people with SEND in our area whilst transform our High Needs Block expenditure.
- 2.3. In tandem with the release of these recovery plans, the DfE have also began a 'call for evidence' consultation. The call for evidence seeks to gain local area input into how the current SEND system is working, and we expect this to feed into the DfE's forthcoming spending review. Responses to this can be made online, and we will also be holding an open workshop with schools on Monday 24th June 15:30-17:30 at the Lilla Huset Professional Centre to help coordinate our local response. More details can be found on Schools Zone or via Amric.sagha@lbhf.gov.uk.

3. Request to Schools Forum

- 3.1. Schools Forum are requested to not and sign off the recovery plan for submission to DfE by 3rd July.

END OF REPORT