


Item 3

	London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham SCHOOLS FORUM November 2023
Q2 Update: High Needs Block 2023/24	
Open	
Classification - For Scrutiny Review & Comment	
Key Decision: No	
Wards Affected: (All Wards): All	
Accountable Director: Jacqui McShannon, Strategic Director of Children's Services	
Report Authors: Peter Haylock – Operational Director of Education and SEND Joe Gunning - Programme Lead, Children's Commissioning	
Purpose of the report This report provides an update on the High Needs Block programmes of work and performance against the Department for Education Safety Valve Agreement at Q2.	

Recommendations:

1. Schools Forum to note the current position and progress of the transformation programme across the High Needs Block (HNB).

Q2 2023/24 - Programme Update

Work programme	Assurance Level		
Increase early intervention activity and development of a more robust Local Offer	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Green	Green	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>Good progress continues to be made in relation to our early intervention offer. The new Ordinarily Available Guidance was approved by Cabinet following consultation across the local area. Work is currently underway with our designers to create an accessible PDF version.</p> <p>We have recruited to a new Local Area SENDCO role who will support settings in mapping their SEND Support offer to the Ordinarily Available Guidance and embedding this in practice. An activity plan for this work is being agreed by the Education Leadership Team to commence from September 2023.</p> <p>Officers continue to roll out the Autism Education Trust programme to settings. The</p>			

team continues to roll out the Autism Education Trust programme - Making Sense of Autism and Good Autism Practice modules with delivery of 34 sessions across Early Years and Schools. There is ongoing targeted work with schools who had not previously engaged (3).

Good progress continues to be made in establishing a SEN Support Speech, Language and Communication Needs Offer. Extensive work has been undertaken to support the impact reporting of this offer. A new data dashboard has been established to help inform the future delivery of the programme. 69% of primary schools have engaged and 54% of secondary schools. Targeted work in underway to support those schools who have not yet engaged. Attendees of the early intervention training report a three-point increase in knowledge post training (10-point scale). Eight settings have now completed the training, undertaken initial screening of their cohorts, followed by two terms of interventions, and have then rescreened the cohort. The assessment domains are RAG rated. Following two terms of interventions red ratings have decreased from 5% to 1%, Amber from 61% to 37%, and Green has increased from 34% to 62%. The % proportion of the EHCP cohort where speech, language and communication is the primary need has also remained static demonstrating the positive impact of this work in reducing escalation to specialist pathways and provision.

Work programme	Assurance Level		
Review of Alternative Provision model	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Green	Green	RAG

Progress Update:

This workstream is complete.

Work programme	Assurance Level		
SEND Sufficiency Review and School Organisation Plan	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Amber	Amber	RAG

Progress Update:

The delay in savings in this workstream have been mitigated via S106 diversion.

The SEND Sufficiency Review was approved by Cabinet in June 2023. This is now published on the Council's website. [H&F SEND Sufficiency Review \(lbhf.gov.uk\)](https://www.lbhf.gov.uk).

Business planning meetings have been held with all Special Schools and Resourced Unit provisions in response to the recommendations of the SEND Sufficiency Review. The outcomes of these meetings have been developed into the Special School Organisation and Capital Plan which sets out the programme of investment in our school estate to meet the needs of children and young people

with SEND locally across mainstream, resourced and special provision.

It delivers on the ambitions of the local area's SEND Strategy and builds on the detailed analysis of trends in demand for specialist provision recommended in the SEND Sufficiency Review.

The plan sets out a framework for capital investment of £8 million in enhancing provision across the borough for pupils with SEND. This plan is due to be approved by Cabinet in September.

Work programme	Assurance Level		
Review and reform of outreach services	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Amber	Amber	RAG

Progress Update:

A graduated approach has been proposed with the provider in establishing a redesigned provision, creating a robust, universal, targeted and specialist offer. The targeted and specialist offer would be a traded model to schools realising the savings target. Meetings are scheduled with school partners during the autumn term ahead of progressing this model for implementation from April 2024.

Work programme	Assurance Level		
Case Management system	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Amber	Amber	RAG

The SEN case management finance module has been implemented. There is ongoing resolution of the finance module output queries between the EHC Casework Service and Finance team to improve the quality of reporting. A business case has been approved for short term General Fund investment into Business Intelligence to support a system review and streamlining of associated finance and business support workflows to improve data quality, processes for forecasting and payments to providers.

A quick win workshop has been completed. Capacity has been onboarded to progress this work. A Business Analyst and Developer are currently undertaking 'as is' process mapping across the services. Target programme date is March 2024.

Work programme	Assurance Level		
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Annual Reviews	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Amber	Amber	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>Work in ongoing to implement a new Business Intelligence tracker for EHCP annual review activity to support data quality with the resolution of Synergy casework recording. A new Annual Review Coordinator is currently being onboarded and is due to start in early September. This role will focus on working with schools and partners to ensure timely returns. SENCO training was delivered to primary and secondary settings during the 2022/23 academic year on annual reviews, including person centred planning and preparation for adulthood outcomes. A task and finish group has been established to progress key activities including ongoing workforce development. The new local area guidance on annual review will be published in early September.</p> <p>Extensive work between Children's and Adult's Services has resulted in the agreement of joint priorities for transitions planning and Preparation for Adulthood. A business case is currently being progressed via the Corporate Medium Term Financial Strategy process. A monthly programme meeting has been established, jointly chaired by the DCS and DASS to oversee progress.</p>			
Work programme	Assurance Level		
Needs assessments and new plans	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Green	Green	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>Our performance remains very positive in relation to decision needs assessments and new plans. The timeliness of EHC Needs Assessments continues to be positive at 90.3% year to date, against the England average of 50.7%.</p>			
Work programme	Assurance Level		
Medical Needs Guidance	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Green	Green	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>The final version of the Medical Needs Guidance has been approved via governance. This has now been uploaded to the Local Offer (Medical needs policy London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (lbhf.gov.uk)) and shared with school</p>			

partners. The Medical Needs Officer will continue to work in partnership with schools to promote inclusion and positive attendance for children with medical needs. This workstream is complete and transitioned to business as usual.

Work programme	Assurance Level		
Schools Block to High Needs Block disapplication	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Green	Green	RAG

Progress Update:

Work in progress to submit disapplication request to the Safety Valve Team by the 17 November. The indicative timeline for this activity is as follows:

- 2 August - Education DLT (strategic steer)
- 6 September - Education DLT (draft papers)
- 12 September – Children’s Leadership Team
- 18 September – Cabinet Member Briefing
- 3 October - Schools Forum (budget models and draft disapplication proforma)
- 3 October - Launch consultation
- 8 October - School workshops
- 31 October Close consultation
- 7 November – Children’s Leadership Team
- 13 November – Cabinet Member Briefing
- 14 November - Extraordinary Schools Forum
- 17 November - Deadline for submission