


Item 4

	<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>SCHOOLS FORUM</p> <p>July 2024</p>
Q1 Update: High Needs Block 2024/25	
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 Q1.	

Recommendations:

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

Q1 2024/25 - Programme Update

Work programme	Assurance Level		
	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
Increase early intervention activity and development of a more robust Local Offer			
	Green	RAG	RAG
Progress Update: Good progress continues to be made in embedding our early intervention activity across the local area. Officers have working to develop a single SEN Support pathway to streamline access for settings and families. This will launch in the summer term. This includes a new Advice Service via our Local Area SENDCO who will triage referrals to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ordinarily Available Guidance is being appropriately implemented.• For more complex cases, coordinating a 'team around the child' discussion			

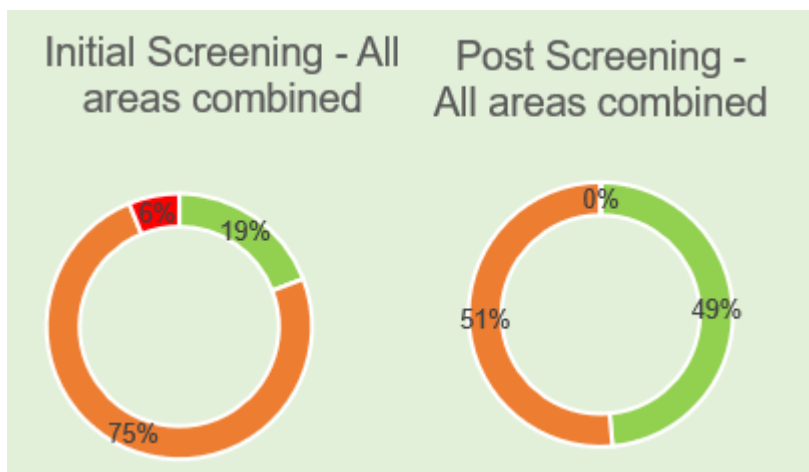
via the new SEND Support panel.

- Ensure the effective use of time limited inclusion funding to decrease escalation to statutory processes both across early years and school age.
- The robust use of data to measure baseline and post intervention support to test the efficacy of interventions.

The new streamlined pathway will be launched in the Summer Term.

Officers continue to roll out the Autism Education Trust programme to settings. A total of 6 modules to 29 delegates have been delivered since February half term, with an average AET compliance score of 4.75 against the target of 4.2. 90% of schools have now engaged with the AET training.

Progress continues to be sustained in the roll out of our early intervention speech, language, and communication needs offer. 84% of primary settings and 91% of secondary settings have now engaged, this is a significant increase since the Autumn term. In the Spring term 241 members of the school workforce have attended the universal training sessions and reported an average increase in knowledge from 5.7 to 8.3 post training (of a 10-point scale). For the academic year to date, 136 children have been screened across 17 schools. Initial data for those schools who have rescreened following two months of targeted interventions demonstrates significant progress across all key domains post intervention.



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

Progress Update:

- Designation and descriptor profiles for new SEN Units and ARPs agreed.
- Specifications and Service Level Agreements drafted.
- Expression of interest/bid template issued to school partners.
- Socialisation sessions held with school partners.

Next steps:

- Bottom-up financial review of proposed SEN Units and ARPs as part of SLA negotiations.
- Completion of the assessment of SEN Unit/ARP bids for a shortlist recommendation to Education Leadership Team.
- Education Leadership Team ratification of candidate SEN Units/ARP schools.
- Announcement of successful SEN Units and ARPs.
- Resource management review, business planning and completion of MTFs for existing Special Schools and Units.
- Review and update sufficiency financial modelling.

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

Progress Update:

- A decision was progressed in line with the commitments in our Safety Valve Agreement to develop a dual funding model, through a Local Authority contribution and a traded model between schools and OAT. This decision was approved in November 2023.
- Since this decision, across the system we have identified emerging complex behaviour needs in the early year's cohort. These relate particularly to acute behaviour presentation in the Reception age cohort and Key Stage 1. These complex behaviours are requiring high levels of outreach intervention to enable the child to achieve their outcomes and remain in their mainstream setting. These needs are above what we would expect to be ordinarily provided by a school. The absence of this offer in the context of these needs, would likely result in an escalation to statutory processes or exclusion.
- Preventing exclusions is important for a plethora of reasons but mostly it is a

key factor in improving future life chances for children. Exclusions not only typically lead to isolation and poor academic progress in the short term, but also have far reaching detrimental effects for the young person into adulthood.

- Officers have therefore reviewed the previously agreed approach and recommend maintaining the original arrangements for a further year. This will allow a holistic and joint review SEMH/behaviour pathway with Ormiston Academy Trust to identify opportunities for reducing the current delivery costs in the context of the SEND Special School Organisation Plan to maximise economies of scale, whilst maintaining a robust commissioned service.

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

The case management system has been implemented. There is ongoing work to improve business as usual processes to improve the quality of data and streamline wherever possible. This includes new processes to streamline the reconciliation of commitments to the general ledger and automated workflows for our business support service to raise queries to the casework team. These processes will continue to be reviewed and refined as part of business-as-usual activity.

Work programme	Assurance Level		
Annual Reviews	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Amber	RAG	RAG

Progress Update:

Annual Reviews:

- There has been significant focus on Annual Reviews within the EHC Casework Service.
- The workforce is now stable and there have been additional posts created to focus on the quality and recording of data in our case management system.
- There has been targeted quick win activity with open annual reviews and special schools with a whole team EHC Casework focused workshop on this activity.
- Of the annual reviews completed, 40.16% have been returned by schools within two weeks of the meeting date. 53.76% had a decision made within four weeks. For those reviews completed in Q1 of 2024, this percentage is 64.71% demonstrating the positive trajectory. Where annual reviews were completed and there was a decision to amend 40.54% of plans were issued

in 12 weeks.

- There remains ongoing priority work with settings on the importance and timeliness of annual reviews and improvement of data quality supported by additional supernumerary capacity being met by the Council's General Fund.

Transitions/Preparation for Adulthood (PfA):

- The joint business case for the creation of a new Integrated Transitions Team was successful via the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy process with significant general fund growth invested.
- A new Transitions Strategic Lead has been onboarded within Adult Social Care initially focused on recruiting and mobilising this new team.
- Once the team is embedded, they will be allocated to all key areas of need that lead in from year 9, allocated to a school and will feed into annual reviews. In the short-term the team are prioritising young people that require adult social care input as a priority.
- A new PfA Board is being developed jointly with Adults and Children's Operational Directors along with a new performance dashboard.
- The Designated Social Care Officer has developed a new Transitions Assessment, following the main care act domains to provide an earlier indication of who may be eligible for Adult Social Care, and areas of need which can be built into annual reviews and wider community support. Pilot currently underway with one of the special schools before wider roll out.

Broader Quality Assurance programme:

- Half termly audits embedded into business as usual.
- QA process in place across all plans as they are being finalised.
- Seeing improvements and consistency across the sample
- Completed multi-agency case tracking exercise. Positive cooperation and support across the partnership.
- Circulated annual parent survey end of February which was codesigned with Parentsactive. Survey is still open and will close at the end of the Easter holidays. 97 responses to date which are still to be analysed.

Work programme	Assurance Level		
Needs assessments and new plans	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Green	RAG	RAG

Progress Update:

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 80.6% for the provision 2023 outturn, against the London average of 54.7% for 2022 (excluding exceptions).

Work programme	Assurance Level		
Medical Needs Guidance	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Green	RAG	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>There continues to be robust controls and oversight in place for those young people requiring home tuition. Whilst there was an adverse movement in 2023/24 this was mitigated by other net movements, however, was as a result of complex presentation of need and high-risk young people requiring hybrid and flexible learning. Officers are exploring opportunities to onboard this via the Commissioned Alternative Provision provider to reduce spot purchasing and to consolidate all alternative provision through a single pathway. This will be progressed across the summer term.</p>			
Work programme	Assurance Level		
Schools Block to High Needs Block disapplication	Update 1 (May/June)	Update 2 (September)	Update 3 (December)
	Green	RAG	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p>The disapplication was submitted to the Safety Valve Team on the 15 November 2023 and confirmed as approved by the Minster on 17 January 2024.</p>			