

SCHOOLS FORUM - 22nd June 2017

Title of paper:	SEND strategic review 2017-2022
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Pat and Sarah Fielding, Joint Directors of Education Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults
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Summary	
<p>The DfE requires all LAs, in consultation with stakeholders to carry out a strategic review of their high needs provision.</p> <p>The LA proposes to appoint experienced SEN professionals to work with schools, children and families and other partners to develop a shared SEN Strategy that will inform provision for children and young people with SEND in the city over the next 5 years.</p> <p>The review will be conducted during the financial year 2017-18, so that initial plans are in place for implementation from September 2018</p>	
Recommendation(s):	
1	That forum notes the proposal to develop an SEND Strategy 0-25, in line with DfE guidance for funding
2	To note that funding will be allocated to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase capacity to ensure high quality and collaborative implementation of the review - facilitate consultation with all partners, children and families - collation and analysis of relevant data
3	To note that the consultation and review process will ensure robust links to the high needs funding reforms, current activity to implement the SEND reforms, whole life disability review and capital programmes activity

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 These recommendations will enable the LA and partners to meet statutory duties in terms of strategic planning and provision for children and young people with SEND

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 In December 2016, the DfE allocated funding to each LA to carry out a strategic review of their high needs provision. LA's are required to prioritise this review and planning activity working with schools, colleges and other providers and with parents and young people.
- 2.2 Local authorities should use the funding to increase their capacity so that their review and planning of provision is high quality and collaborative.
- 2.3 The review will link with neighbouring authorities.
- 2.4 Local authorities should publish the outcomes of the review in the form of strategic plans to demonstrate transparency and accountability.

- 2.5 This review will build on the work currently being undertaken as part of the SEND reforms and whole life disability review
- 2.6 The review will take into account:
- the high needs funding reforms which are currently under consultation
 - the capital allocations for SEND provision announced in March 2017
 - Place planning and sufficiency data
 - Gaps identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 There are no other options as to complete the work within existing resources would be contrary to DfE guidance and would limit the scope of the review.

4 OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES

- 4.1 An agreed strategic vision for the city developed through a number of task and finish groups comprising schools, LA staff, parents and carers and other partners
- 4.2 Consultation and communication with all stakeholders, through a range of events and media.
- 4.3 A 5 year strategic plan that will inform allocation of SEND commissioning activity to 2022
- 4.4 As part of the strategic plan there will be a clear outcomes framework to support monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of provision and practice developed through implementation of the strategy.

5 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 5.1 On 14 December 2016, the DfE published their response to the stage 1 high needs high needs funding formula consultation and new proposals for consultation – stage 2. Alongside this they announced additional revenue funding in 2016-17 to help local authorities conduct a strategic review of their special educational provision and/or implement any changes, plus the intention to create a new special provision capital fund.
- 5.2 Nottingham City's allocation of the high needs strategic planning fund is £0.142m. This grant is not ring-fenced and approval to spend will be required from the Portfolio Holder for Schools.
- 5.3 This paper outlines the local authority's overall planned approach to conducting the high needs strategic planning review.
- 5.4 The DfE envisage that this strategic planning should take into account the level of high needs funding that the LA expects to receive in future under the new high needs national funding formula.
- 5.5 Under the proposed national high needs formula, which is the subject to the outcome of the stage 2 consultation, Nottingham would see a £5.9m increase (20.5%) in high needs funding once fully implemented. However, there is a proposed funding floor on high needs to ensure that no LA will see a reduction compared to their spending baseline. To make this affordable there is a 3% cap on gains which will limit our annual funding increases to around £0.8m for the first 2

years. There is no firm commitment to a level of increase from 2020/21 as this is subject to decisions in a future spending review.

- 5.6 In our stage 2 consultation response we have argued that the balance of the high needs proposals is too far skewed towards stability to the detriment of fairness. In addition, the way the cap has been designed unfairly and disproportionately penalises local authorities that are due to gain most under the new formula. We believe scaling the gains in proportion to the amount by which LAs are under-funded according to the formula, rather than a straight 3% limit on gains would be a much fairer approach.
- 5.7 Nottingham City's allocation of the special provision capital fund is £0.420m a year for 3 years from 2018/19.

6 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 6.1 Not applicable

7 HR ISSUES

- 7.1 Not applicable

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

An EIA is not required because this report does not approve the establishment of new services.

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Yes

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 9.1 None

10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 10.1 High feeds national funding formula and other reforms consultation – December 2016 2017
High Needs Strategic Planning Fund Guidance DfE 2016
Capital Allocations and planning for pupils with SEND 2017