

SSSAB Newsletter

Solihull Schools' Strategic Accountability Board

EAL Funding and Improving Achievement for EAL Pupils

Helen Rowe gave an overview of the funding changes for pupils with English as an Additional Language and to raise awareness. Funding is for current EAL pupils who have been in the UK school system for 3 years or less. It was noted that it would be useful for secondary schools to know which of the 3 eligible years new EAL pupils arriving in the school is in. Phil Leivers offered to take that information back to the LA and suggested that funding and how it is used could be monitored as part of the adviser visits.



SSSAB Strategic Plan

Feedback and suggestions to add to the SSSAB Strategic Plan for 2018-19 were as follows:

- Nursery admissions
- Mental Health & Well-Being
- School to school support
- Inclusion (linked to the Council's Plan)
- Transition (linked to the EdSEND work plan)



Consistency of Snow Closures

The Rural collaborative wished to explore the possibility of the LA issuing blanket decisions in respect of snow closures and potentially advising academies in this respect. Phil Leivers explained that the LA will issue a blanket closure decision if it has been advised to close schools via the emergency planning procedures. However, this will not happen in the event of patchy inclement weather when schools would need to make decisions locally. Phil will contact schools clarifying this at the beginning of the Autumn Term

Local Authority Update

- The LA will be advertising to recruit to the post of part-time School Improvement Adviser with a secondary background.
- Core funding within Education has been overspent and any reserves that had been carried over have had to be used. Areas overspent were Looked After Children and School Transport particularly for SEND children and young people in out of borough placements. Phil Leivers has been particularly challenged to reduce that going forward and this will be through keeping children within the borough.

Alternative Provision

The Rural collaborative had expressed concern about the consultation around Alternative Provision that had taken place at the Heads' Partnership Meeting in March 2018. They were concerned that they were not able to give an informed opinion and that there were questions around the bigger picture and what the opinions of experts were in that area. The Auckland Management Board had also raised concerns and had been advised that a revised consultation would go through the Management Board before being sent out via collaboratives to schools.

Feedback from Working Groups

- There will be a SEND focus at the June Heads' Partnership meeting and SEND governors will be invited. The Principal EP will be invited to give his vision of the service and it is hoped to have an item on finance.
- Alison McGrory – Assistant Director Communities – will be invited to a future SSSAB meeting to talk about the Locality Plan.



Leadership Programme

Unity's Leadership Programme will start in September 2018. SSSAB will fund facilitators across collaboratives.

Update from Ken Councillor Meeson

- SSSAB expressed an interest in a project introduced by Cllr Meeson called Art at the Heart. This is aimed at primary children experiencing difficulties with basic Maths and English.
- The number of Looked After Children had increased to over 400 for the first time. Cllr Meeson continues to press for extra funding.

Monitoring Statement

- SSSAB agreed that the annual contribution to Partnership Funds should be retained to ensure continuity and remaining funds should be spent on CPD. A group will form to facilitate this.
- It was agreed to pay for full cover for those attending the English Forum and Maths Forum meetings from SSSAB funds.

For more information about any of the above please check out the minutes on SSSAB's website at:

<http://socialsolihull.org.uk/schools/sab>