

**EDUCATION SEND GROUP
REPORT TO FORUM
FOR PRESENTATION
AT FORUM ON 9 July 2019**

Date of meeting: 19 June 2019 - Brief Summary of Items Discussed

- **SENDIAS Bid Outcome (Hazel Clarke)** – SENDIAS has received £45k funding for the year to March 2020, which will support two part-time staff members, plus resources. In support of national standards, SENDIAS is required to develop an Advisory Group to ensure the service is meeting the needs of the area.
- **Reasonable Adjustments (Natasha Compton/Parent Carer Forum)** – The findings of a recent survey were presented to the group. Whilst many schools are shown to be extremely supportive of, many Survey respondents had had requests for RA refused. Overall, the group agreed that there was more work to do and the EdSEND sub-group is already working on a Reasonable Adjustments Protocol.
- **Alternative Provision (Bev Petch)** – BP provided an update on permanent exclusions, the number of which is down slightly on the same time last year. All three PRUs are expecting Ofsted inspections this term; Auckland Education Centre will receive a monitoring visit focusing on Safeguarding. Plans are in place for Auckland to close operationally on 31 August and a great deal of work has done to find appropriate destinations for pupils from September. It was noted that there will be a gap in provision between Auckland's closure and the opening of SEMH ARPs, anticipated to be from Easter 2020. BP is working with regional colleagues to assess the quality of education being provided to young people in private hospitals. The new Quality Assurance Framework has been finalised and will be circulated to schools (via Headlines) and other LA colleagues to ensure the same standards are used when assessing and selecting external placements.
- **SEND Funding (Steve Fenton)** – Data provided showed that an additional 58 pupils have been placed in independent ex-borough provisions over the last 12 months, at an additional cost of £2.5m (average per pupil cost of £34k plus transport). The highest numbers are in a suite of schools catering for young people with complex ASD - this area of need will be Solihull's focus for its ASD Free School. It was noted that this area of spend is the key driver of the overspend on the High Needs Block.
- **Head of Service and START Team Update (Ann Lowe)** – AL reported that returns for pupils on Part-time Timetables are being gathered and analysis will be undertaken over the summer; attendance data for pupils in out-of-borough provision is being collated and will be added to the Dashboard and additional staff are being recruited in response to the additional funding for the START team. AL will be updating the Authority's 0-25 SEND Strategy over the summer.
- **Education Psychology Service (Halit Hulusi)** – By September the Service will have nine EPs to cover a range of statutory work around ECHP assessments, Annual Review panels and tribunals and traded work, for which 51% of schools have already subscribed. A legally compliant, time efficient Annual Review process is now in place and LM was keen to share the paperwork with colleagues through Heads' Partnership. The EP Service is already responding robustly to requests through tribunal, where Solihull can offer in-borough places and a number of young people have been identified – with the support of their parents – for returning to Solihull, once suitable provision is available.
- **SISS Update (Paula Thompson)** – The newly formed 0-4 Team Around the Child Panel, chaired by SISS, with representatives from SEND and NHS colleagues. will work to identify children with significant needs at the earliest opportunity. Members accepted the costed proposal for the next round of AET training for new staff, at a total cost of £21,277. A final draft of the Inclusion Charter will be passed by the reference group and the Directorship Leadership Team, before being finalised this term. Figures for buy-back of the traded elements of the service were circulated to members. Access criteria and pathways for the non-traded SEMH offer are being finalised and will be sent out to schools by 1 September. The Autism Team will be changing the way it works, offering schools time based on the number of autistic pupils they have and so providing a fairer distribution of support.

- **Interim Arrangements for EYSAT and TAC Teams (Dawn Wayne)** – Following consultation with all early years providers, from summer 2019 the team of 4 fte specialist teachers will work across the Borough through three locality areas (North Solihull, East/South and West Solihull), with every school having a named teacher. Teachers will act in an advisory/consultancy role, offering support about meeting needs and ISPs will concentrate on working in homes for pre-school children. Access will be through the TAC Panel, with referrals coming predominantly from Health Visitors.

LM 1.7.19