

## Appendix 2

### 1. SEND Placement Commissioning Strategy

- a) The SEND School Place Commissioning Strategy seeks to set a baseline for specialist provision across Solihull and consider a range of factors that are driving a need for change over the short to medium term. The strategy provides information regarding the current and future SEND population in Solihull and draws conclusions regarding the potential need to make changes to specialist provision.
- b) The future demographic forecasts show that between January 2018 and January 2023 the number of EHCPs for Solihull pupils is forecast to grow by 656.

### 2. Inclusion Policy

- a) Solihull's Inclusion Strategy (Completion due September 2019) - a new policy on mainstream inclusion, with a real focus around supporting mainstream schools and removing the barriers to inclusion. A new SEMH pathway will link to the Strategy and will seek to engage all partner agencies in a shared vision of increasing inclusion in Solihull, reducing the numbers of EHC Plans and OOB educational placements. There has also been inconsistent use of 'reasonable adjustment' in schools to enable greater inclusion of children with SEND in local mainstream

### 3. SEND Processes

- a) There has been an marked upward trend in the volume of EHCP assessment requests.
- b) A Demand v Capacity audit identified under capacity within the StART team. This evidenced that in order to achieve completion of new EHCP assessments and annual reviews (1471 plans with a further 280 which need to be ceased) within timescales, significant staffing increases were required. A business case has been approved and through the budget process a £510k increase in the base budget has been agreed from 19/20. The staffing structure has been agreed and recruitment has commenced.
- c) Single Route of Redress pilot for social care has now been live for 12 months. This has enabled social care assessments to take place on all new EHCP assessment requests since April 2018. Limited staff capacity has led to a back log which has impacted upon the 20 week timescale. Additional staff were agreed in the Business Case to build capacity.
- d) The Principal Educational Psychologist has recruited a full complement of EP's (9) and developed a traded and non traded service specification. All EP's will be in post by September 2019. Increased EP capacity will enable greater influence to reduce the number of EHCP requests through more robust advice, support and guidance for schools.
- e) Agreement of funding for a newly developed, non-traded SEMH team, to provide additional advice, guidance and support to schools and young people at an early stage and prevent escalation. The Pathway and Criteria for accessing this will be drafted on 22nd May 2019 and consultation with partners will follow in June 2019. The Pathway and criteria will be linked to Solihull's Inclusion Strategy, SEND Code of Practice (2014) and the guidance around implementing the SEND Code of Practice detailed in Solihull's banding documents, published on the Local Offer. Clear links will also be made with Pathways into alternative and specialist provisions. Staffing will be in place for September 2019, when this provision will commence. Pathways and Criteria documentation will be finalised and published by the 23rd July 2019.
- f) Half Termly meetings are arranged to enable multi agency quality assurance of EHC Plans. This has led to a review of the advice templates and the EHCP templates.

### 4. Review of current and future provision

- a) Over the last three years we have invested significant resource into developing SEND provision in Solihull, including:-
  - Opened 2 primary Autism additionally resourced provisions (24 places)

- Opened a secondary Autism additionally resource provision (30 places)
- Opened a primary SEMH assessment centre (8 places)
- Increased special school places by 14%
- Opened 2 early years provisions for children with complex needs linked to Merstone and Reynolds Cross Special Schools
- Physically relocated the sixth form of Forest Oak School to Solihull College (based at Woodlands Campus but still delivered by Forest Oak).

b) The future key priorities for provision development identified within the commissioning strategy are:

- Establish the Special Free School with a focus around Autism
- Create Autism enhanced provision in secondary schools across the Borough
- Development of Post-16 Autism and Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) provision.
- Evaluate the post-16 Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) pilot at Solihull College with a view to creating an equivalent provision in South Solihull.
- Expand Reception and KS1 Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) places at Reynolds Cross and Merstone Schools.
- Develop SEMH additional resource provision in the primary phase (North Solihull as a priority)

## **5. Funding Strategy and Planning**

a) Central to all the service actions is a robust long term funding model which reflects changes in demand and provision. That work is underway.

b) However, it is clear that in the short term (and possibly long term even), these options may not wholly cover the HND deficit under the current National Funding Formula. As such conversations have begun with Solihull School Forum about the options for a Schools Block top slice under the NFF regulations.

c) In addition, we shall explore options for all other services within the HNB