

# EDUCATION SEND GROUP REPORT TO FORUM FOR PRESENTATION AT FORUM ON 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Date of meeting: Tuesday, 14 November 2017**

Items discussed (brief summary of key items):

- **Education Psychology (Sophie Grigsby, Ann Lowe)** – Taking the opportunity to explore alternative methods of providing EP support to schools, an external provider was invited to present a range of options for the delivery of an outsourced EP Service. However, members agreed that Solihull needs a more regular intervention and ‘big picture’ service based on demand and delivered on a traded basis. To that end, the LA is currently undertaking a recruitment drive, with a Principal EP appointed (and expected to be in-post by February 2018) followed by two Specialist Senior EPs.
- **Post-16 Pathways (Penny Browne)** – There is great concern that young people with SEND and their families are finding it extremely difficult to establish what options are available to them for post-16 in terms of appropriate college courses, apprenticeships, etc. Since the end of the LA’s own Careers Service, it has been the responsibility of schools to provide ‘impartial information, advice and guidance’ to all young people, including those with SEND in mainstream and special schools. Some schools do this themselves and some buy in the service, including Solihull’s special schools. Members agreed that improvements were needed and that the item would be brought back to the January meeting and raised at the December Forum meeting.
- **High Needs Block Monitoring 2017/18 (Ian Murray)** – A significant increase in independent out-of-borough placements is now likely to result in a break-even position or possibly a small overspend at the end of the year.
- **Monitoring of Out-of-borough Placements (Ann Pearson)** – Solihull is currently spending over £5.3m a year on out-of-borough independent placements and travel for 140 young people with EHCPs. A mix of growing demography, greater complexity of needs and limited in-borough provision is expected to lead to increasing reliance on this provision unless Solihull can increase its own offering. The team is working with First Planner to identify ways that this may be addressed from within the current funding package.
- **School Outcomes Data (Kate Sirrett)** – KS presented data for young people with EHCPs both in and out-of-borough, to compare outcomes. Raw data shows that achievements for pupils in non-Solihull provision are lower, however some variance in outcomes could be explained by the nature and severity of the additional need. Additional information was requested for the January meeting. Plans to instigate a programme of monitoring out-of-borough provision are under discussion.
- **Training (Paula Thompson)** – PT updated the group on how AET and Mental Health First Aid training is being embedded across schools. Plans to deliver ‘Person Centred Training’ next year are taking shape, funded from the High Needs Block.
- **Draft SISS Service Annual Report 2016-17 (Paula Thompson)** – The draft Report was circulated for information. The finalised document will be presented to the SEND Board and will influence the service specification going forward.
- **Head of SEND Updates (Ann Lowe)** – A number of areas will be addressed as part of the post-Ofsted planning process, including legal obligations around part-time timetables and improvements and wider publicity around the Local Offer. Further information on Ofsted’s findings will be brought to the January meeting. Additional staff have been brought in to support the EHCP conversion process in order to meet the 31 March 2018 deadline.