

To – Schools Forum – 19th Jan 2017

Growth Item Head of Vulnerable Pupils

Introduction

Analysis of need both conducted by the Local Authority and the Strategic Group for Improving Outcomes Vulnerable Pupils (SGIOVP) demonstrates that there is significant investment in vulnerable pupils both within and out of the authority, adding to the pressures on the DSG Central Block and Higher Needs Block. Although many pupils have an identified Education Health and Care Plan many pupils do not fall into this category, however they still require management and careful oversight.

The Local Authority capacity to manage the complex needs of these pupils is limited and relies heavily on the work of the pupil referral panel. Although this is a very important conduit to identify pupils, work beyond the panel needs to be undertaken to ensure schools feel supported to continue with a mainstream place (where appropriate) or an alternative bespoke package is created.

Analysis of bespoke packages also indicates that there is a lack of local provision to meet the needs of vulnerable pupils this leads to a higher number of out of area placements that can lead to an increase in cost and a potential impact on the outcomes achieved by the pupil.

Proposal

To address the challenges the Local Authority proposes to create a Head of Vulnerable Pupils.

This post holder will be responsible for the following three key outcomes:-

- The oversight and generation of alternative provision
- The management of panels to meet the needs of complex pupils, including the subsequent actions and support
- Contribution to the work of the SGIOVP building both capacity and intelligence to drive forward sustainable changes.

The job description is subject to the job evaluation process and the exact grade is still being determined. The maximum budget required for the post would be £70k including on-costs.

Recommendation

- To consider the proposal and agree to appoint a Head of Vulnerable Pupils.

Rachael Williams Head of Education, Learning and Skills