

Schools Forum - 8th March 2018

Higher Needs Recovery Group

Context

In January 2018 School Forum agreed to establish a Higher Needs Recovery Group to deal with the significant issues being placed on this funding block.

The group has been established and one meeting of the group has taken place. The meeting was well attended.

Board Members

For your information the board members are as follows

Roger Hughes	Chair of School Forum /TAPS
Adam Morris	Headteacher, Watcombe Primary
Ken Kies	CEO Coast Academies
Sandra Wright	Headteacher Chestnut
Julie Chubb	Financer Manager, Brixham College
Steven Hulme	Headteacher, Burton Academy
Mike Lock	Headteacher, Combe Pafford
Mark Eager	Headteacher, Brixham College
Stephen Kings	CEO, Bay Education Trust
Brian Chapman	SENCO, Paignton Academy
John Demeger	SENCO, South Devon College
Sam Meyer	SENCO, Oldway
Siobhan Grady	Clinical Commissioning Group
Daniel Hamer	Head of Vulnerable Pupils
Rachael Williams	Head of Education, Learning and Skills
Andy Dempsey	Director of Children's Services
Rob Parr	Children's Services Finance Officer
Jayne Pollard	Finance Assistant
Dorothy Hadleigh	Head of SEND
Matthew Gifford	Project Officer SEND
Sheena Wright	Head of Service Early Years
Amanda White	Head of Specialist Services
Gail Rogers	Children's Commissioner and Interim YOT Manager

First Meeting

The meeting revisited the terms of reference to ensure a collective understanding of the brief and ensured that all of the necessary operational issues such as communication and confidentiality were addressed.

The majority of the meeting focused on two presentations and the agreement of priority areas for action.

The first presentation gave an overview of the current demand within the system, detailing the number of pupils requiring both EHCP and SEN support. These figures were then further extracted to identify primary needs and types of provision. The figures were set against national benchmarks.

The second presentation gave an overview of the higher needs budget and the spend against each area of activity. This enables members to have a full appreciation of the diverse provisions that are funded through the higher needs block and the types of support children and young people require.

The information was deemed to be useful by members and a further list of additional requirements was generated.

From the discussion it was noted that Torbay has some unique characteristics in relation to Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). Both of these areas need further exploration.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is due to take place on the 19th April 2018. The meeting will include the information requested by the group in relation to statistical neighbours and comparison data.

The agenda will also focus heavily on pupil flows through the education system, linked to permanent and fixed term exclusions.

Rachael Williams

Head of Education, Learning and Skills