

Schools Funding Forum 24th September 2015

SEND Reforms

At the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum held on 18th June 2015 a request was made by the LA for £125,000 from the 2014-15 DSG underspend to support the SEND Reforms.

The Forum asked for further information and costings before reaching a decision.

The Children and Families Act 2014 outlines a programme of transferring statements of special educational needs to EHC Plans by 2018. In Havering we had over 1,000 (and now 600) for conversion; along with other post-16 responsibilities. All of these functions must be undertaken in or with full support of schools and other education settings.

If the timelines are not met, Havering is in danger of legal challenge through LGO or Tribunal, which is costly in time and ultimately resources for the central LA and community of Havering schools. Additionally, all efforts must be made to meet the needs of pupils locally and reduce reliance on high-cost out of borough day and residential placements. The sooner we can remove the present backlog and begin to work in a more preventative way, the more efficient and cost-effective our systems and processes will be.

The request for £125,000 will contribute towards the costs two Assistant Educational Psychologists and two case officers for one year.

Assistant Educational Psychologist	– salary + on costs £34,838 x 2 = £69,676
Case officers	– salary + on costs £35,164 x 2 = <u>£70,328</u>
TOTAL	£140,004