



Schools Funding Forum 14th September 2017 ITEM 5

Subject Heading:

**Strategic Review and Planning of
Special Education Provision**

Report Author:

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Manager**

Eligibility to vote:

N/A

SUMMARY

This item is to receive an update on the progress of the review of, and strategy for special education provision in Havering. The review intends to refresh the existing SEND Strategy, incorporating the Post-16 Strategy, into a coherent, future-focussed document which will support planning for provision for the borough over the coming years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum notes the report.

REPORT DETAIL

Background

Over the past few years, the government has introduced a number of changes to how children and young people with special educational needs, as well as their families, are supported. The main change has been through the introduction of the Children and Families Act 2014. The Act set out to ensure that local authorities work in partnership with health, social care, schools, colleges and other key partners to ensure that children, young people and their families receive joined-up, high quality and appropriate services.

Last year, the government announced proposals to consult on how funding is given to local authorities and schools to support children and young people with SEND. As part of this, local authorities are required to refresh their SEND Strategy to

ensure that it is up to date, reflects current and predicted trends, and provides clarity on how the authority expects different levels of needs to be met and where its current and future gaps in provision are.

Progress

The Schools Funding Forum was informed of the high needs review at the last meeting of the academic year. Forum members suggested a focus group with schools as well as wider consultation with school staff, colleges, early years providers, parents and pupils to feed into a comprehensive review of special educational provision and high needs funding in the borough.

In order to review this strategy and how our high needs funding is allocated, the following were consulted with:

- Parents and carers, via the Parents Forum (run by Positive Parents) and through a questionnaire on SurveyMonkey
- Children and young people, via Advocacy for All consultations on:
 - short breaks
 - personal outcomes evaluation tool (POET – which asks about young people’s experiences of getting an EHCP)
 - preparing for adulthood
- Schools and academies, including special schools and academies via a focus group and a request to all schools to email any comments
- Post-16 providers and colleges via a focus group and a request to all providers to email any comments
- Local authority staff via two drop-in sessions and a request to email any comments

Next Steps

There remain some groups who are yet to be consulted with – these will take place during September:

- Early years providers via a focus group and a request to all providers to email any comments
- Parents at a mainstream school (Nelmes)
- Health colleagues at NELFT and the CCG meetings were set up over the summer but NELFT/CCG cancelled these.

Once all consultations have been completed, a final draft of the strategy will be drawn up. This draft will be ready by early October for formal consultation with stakeholders, through stakeholder networks. This will then be submitted for sign off to the SEND Executive Board, followed by the Health and Well-Being Board in November and then final sign off by Executive Decision in early December.

The current version of the draft strategy is attached.