



Schools Funding Forum 14th December 2017

ITEM 5

Subject Heading:

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

Report Author:

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Manager**

Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

This item is to consult on the final draft of the High Needs Strategy 2017-2022 and to note the findings of the High Needs Review.

The Review covers the analysis of our data and projections, findings from consultations with key stakeholders and an evaluation of our resources and how effective our provision is.

The Strategy sets out our response to these findings: what we will keep doing, what we will start doing and how we will fund developments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Funding Forum is requested to note the Review and provide feedback on the Strategy.

REPORT DETAIL

Background

The government have consulted on proposals to change how funding is given to local authorities and schools to support children with high needs. As part of that, we wanted to make sure that we were clear about how effective our current provision and services are and what we could do to maximise available funds in order to improve support across the borough.

High Needs Review 2017

We have been reviewing how children and young people with high needs, and their parents, are supported across the borough. We have looked at provision in early years, schools, alternative provision and post-16 provision, as well as health services and social care services.

We have consulted with a wide range of stakeholders including:

- Young people with high needs
- Parents and carers of children with high needs
- Early years providers
- Schools, including special schools
- Post-16 providers
- Clinical commissioning group staff
- Staff from children's and adults' services in the local authority

The Review incorporates the feedback we have received from stakeholders, as well as analysis from local and national data. It identifies what we are doing well and where our gaps are.

The Review was undertaken to evaluate how well Havering is delivering support and provision for children and young people with high needs across all partners providing children's services.

The main findings were:

- We need to use our resources wisely, ensuring needs can be met across the spectrum with appropriate levels of support
- We need to support providers, working with all ages of children, to develop the most inclusive services possible
- We should be working with providers, schools and colleges to improve attainment amongst children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) whether they have an EHCP or not
- We need to improve information for children, young people and parents so options, services and pathways are clearer
- We need to develop more provision for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH); from early years, through school and into adulthood
- We need to improve how we gather data (including how schools record data) so that we can meet needs appropriately as they develop and change

High Needs Strategy 2017-2022

Havering's High Needs Strategy was written following the findings of the High Needs Review 2017. The High Needs Strategy 2017-2022 sets out what we are going to do to build on our successes and meet needs.

The strategy sets out our ambitious plans to make Havering provision the provision of choice for children, young people and families. It provides a flexible framework for the next five years which will enable us, and our partners, to respond to current and future need.

Proposed changes

The strategy sets out proposed changes which will take effect from April 2018. The key changes are:

1. To ensure that children, young people and their families have the right support at the right time; through:
 - a. Development of a new SEMH/ ASD Free school
 - b. Delivering an ongoing programme to create more Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs), specialist provision in mainstream settings
 - c. Re-designating special schools, as appropriate; reducing the number of pupils with moderate learning difficulties who attend special schools and enabling special schools to support the growing numbers of children with more complex needs
 - d. Reviewing the impact of alternative provision and how it is provided
 - e. Improving our offer of pathways to adulthood for young people so that they can move towards a productive and enjoyable adult life
 - f. Ensuring social care support provides appropriate care in a timely way for families
 - g. Reviewing the provision of health therapies across the borough to provide sufficient services to meet needs.
2. To increase funding for providers and schools to ease the financial pressure of supporting children with high needs, thereby improving support through:
 - a. Development of a small capital grants programme to allow providers and schools to make their buildings more inclusive
 - b. Increasing the support to providers from the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund for early years
 - c. Increasing the hourly rate for top up payments to schools for pupils with EHC plans & increasing the amount allocated for those schools with disproportionately high numbers of pupils with high needs
 - d. Increasing the provision to support placements in alternative provision
 - e. Increasing the funding to special schools via a revised funding matrix
3. To improve training for staff working with children and young people with high needs:
 - a. To improve the confidence of staff around working with children with high needs
 - b. To support staff retention through gaining appropriate qualifications
 - c. To enable peer-to-peer learning
 - d. To improve quality assurance across schools and providers and ensure consistency of support for children and young people
4. To continue to make improvements in how services are delivered via the Children and Adults with Disabilities Service (CAD) and the Education and Inclusion Service (EIS). This includes making improvements to how we gather and use data to plan future services and provision.

Next Steps

- Consult on the final draft of the Strategy – deadline for comments Tuesday 19th December
- Sign off by ED in January
- Strategy and Review published and available on the Local Offer from February 2018.

The current versions of the Review and Strategy are attached. Deadline for feedback on the Strategy is Tuesday 19th December.