



Subject Heading:

**Review of the High Needs Strategy:
Two Years On**

Report Author:

Emma Ferrey – SEND Project Manager

Eligibility to vote:

N/A

SUMMARY

This item is to receive a report on the two-year review of the High Needs Strategy (2017-2022). The review will analyse progress to date across the priorities as set out in the Strategy and identify any updates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum notes the report.

REPORT DETAIL

Background

In 2017, Havering undertook to review its provision for children and young people with high needs. This review led to the development of the High Needs Strategy 2017-2022 for children and young people aged 0-25 years.

Havering's vision

The Strategy sets out our commitment to developing the most inclusive communities which are welcoming and supportive of all; and our aspiration that all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) enjoy their education in the most inclusive environment possible and are supported in participating as fully as they can in the lives of their schools and local community.

Our commitment to this vision still holds true and, two years into the implementation of the new strategy, we wanted to take time to reflect on our achievements and review our aims so that we can set out our priorities for the next two years.

Reviewing the High Needs Strategy Two Years On

The High Needs Review and Strategy in 2017, involved all our stakeholders from parent carers to young people to schools, Early Years and post-16 providers. We want to continue to build on this with our two-year review, to give stakeholders another opportunity to reflect on progress, achievements and challenges so that the Strategy remains current and relevant.

The Two-Year Review will consider how well we have achieved the aims set out in the Strategy and the subsequent action plan.

Key successes to date:

- 3 new Primary school ARPs are being developed. Discussions in progress for development of a secondary school ARP
- SEMH/ASD Free School is progressing with sponsor confirmed and a host school agreed
- Small grants programme successfully completed: £97,981.64 spent on 13 grants (out of 16 applications). The total funding ring-fenced for small grants was £100,000
- High Needs Budget:
 - Hourly rate for top-up to schools increased
 - Headroom budget increased
 - Early Years Inclusion Fund increased & funding for training made available
- SLT Champions in each setting, supported by SLT and Eps
- Pilot underway to ensure robust reviews of EHCP
- No increase in number of exclusions since last year & more resources going to prevent post-16 exclusions
- Support from CAD Advisory Teachers has helped to improve the quality of referrals for EHCPs
- Special schools matrix reviewed and draft matrix has been implemented
- Work in progress to develop the offer of employment for young people with High Needs – training courses offered for staff, bid submitted to DWP and partnership working taking place with Havering Works
- Routes 4 Life (19-25 year old provision) opened and running successfully
- Public health working with Havering Sports Collective to offer more inclusive provision

Focus of the two-year review:

- Training offer across early years, schools and post-16 to develop confidence and resilience in providing services for children and young people with SEND
- Early Years:
 - How well the EHCP process is delivered

- The impact of methods used to improve distribution of funds to support children with high needs
- Progress on the review of early intervention programmes
- The development of a training programme for providers
- Schools:
 - The development of new provision: the new ASD/SEMH Free School and new Additionally Resourced Provision at mainstream schools
 - The impact of methods used to provide fairer distribution of funds to support children and young people with high needs
 - The provision of information, advice and guidance – to schools and providers, as well as parent carers and pupils
 - The use of alternative provision, including progress on reducing the number of exclusions
 - Updates on projections, particularly for post-16 provision and how well this is being used to inform planning
- Special schools:
 - Progress on updating the funding matrix
 - Reviewing the designations of special schools
 - Reducing the number of placements of children with moderate learning disabilities
- Post-16 providers
 - The current offer for post-16 and how it compares to two years ago
 - How well we plan, prepare and commission appropriate services, including how we work together across LA, providers and schools
 - How well we are supporting young people to move into a successful adulthood
 - How well we are communicating with young people and their parent carers about their future

The focus groups will take place as follows:

Early Years:	Thursday 27 th June at 10.30am – 12noon
Schools (incl. special schools):	Thursday 11 th July 8.30 – 10.30am
Post-16 provider:	Thursday 27 th June 8.30 – 10.30am

All focus groups will be held at:

Room 235, CEME
Marsh Way, RM13

Next steps

We will be following a similar process to the original High Needs Review in 2017. That is, setting up focus groups for different stakeholders and requesting responses to key questions through a variety of media such as the school bulletin.

The Review will take place over the summer term 2019 and a revised action plan will be issued in autumn 2019.

To give feedback via email or to request a place on one of the focus groups, please contact Emma Ferrey, SEND Review Project Manager at emma.ferrey@haverling.gov.uk