

## SCHOOLS FORUM

**Date of Meeting:** 18 October 2017

**For:** Information

### **High Needs Block – update on spend and activity**

#### Purpose of the report:

1. This report provides an update on the work streams identified in Agenda Item 55 from the July 2017 meeting of the Schools Forum. It also provides an update on the current projected spend in 2017/18 from the High Needs Block

#### Summary / background / update:

2. The DfE has produced updated guidance for 2018 including some changes to the funding of resource bases in mainstream schools. From 2018 the Place funding for resource bases will be reduced from £10,000 per child to £6,000. Jackie Wright has been commissioned to complete a review of the resource bases, including funding. She has met with all resource bases, mapped what we know about the current cohort and trends within Wokingham and is drafting a report with clear recommendations for the future. This report is due at the end of October.
3. Top Ups – the LA is currently working to clawback Top Up funding from other local authorities which has been paid from our HNB, for pupils in Northern House placed by neighbouring LAs. This is because of an historical agreement with Northern House that we would underwrite 69 places and the Top Ups. The normal practice is for schools to clawback Top Up funding from the home LA.
4. A draft paper suggesting changes to our current Top Up (Banding) is to be shared with Headteacher representatives this month. Any proposed changes will then be brought to Schools' Forum for consideration.
5. The ENF steering group will receive a revised report from the SEND team showing the full academic year spend at their next meeting in November. The steering groups will be tasked with making recommendations about the use of this pot of money going forward
6. A full audit of EHCPs is currently being undertaken with a report due at the end of October. The report will include comments on quality of the written reports and a judgement on whether our thresholds are appropriate and whether the provision identified is appropriately reflects the needs assessment.
7. A SEND self-assessment has been circulated to all schools for their comments and reflection
8. Work has started to map our current provision locally and regionally to inform the strategic use of the three year DfE capital SEND funding.
9. The current overspend on the HNB – Appendix A reflects the previously unprofiled provision at The Oaks (200k) and a projected overspend on the Independent Special Schools budget.

Jane Winterbone  
Interim Assistant Director Education  
October 2017

This page is intentionally left blank