

Schools Forum Item 7

High Needs Task Group

Proposed Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of the Task Group

To consider how the expenditure on high needs children can be contained within the High Needs block funding both in the short term and the medium term.

2. Objectives of task group

Evaluate

- To review all funding within the High Needs block to ensure it is delivering value for money funding,
- Consider the capacity and funding of resource bases
- Consider the capacity and funding of Special Schools
- Funding levels of Education, Health and Care plans
- Consider the capacity and funding of Alternative Provision
- Review the funding of early year post 16 places to assess the level of needs and resources.
- Review of centrally managed items
- Secure the support of the Schools Forum for its proposals

3. Membership

- two representatives of primary school Headteachers, one representative to be from a school with a resource base, the other representative to come from a school with a high proportion of pupils with ECHP.
- two representatives of secondary school Headteachers, one representative to be from a school with a resource base, the other to come from a school with a high proportion of pupils with ECHP.
- a representative from the PRU
- two representatives of special school Headteachers,
- a representative from the nursery providers

At least two members have to be a representative of the Schools Forum

Local Authorities Officers will include:

- Head of SEN
- Finance Officer

Other officers of the authority will be in attendance as and when required.

Officers will be available to assist the group with research.

4. Chairing Meetings

An Officer will chair the meeting

5. Conduct and frequency of meetings

The group will meet as appropriate, its first meeting will be to scope its programme of work. It is anticipated it will then need to meet monthly. The group will wish to arrive at decisions by consensus; where this is not possible the paper to the Forum will record the differing views.

7. Timescales

The group will complete its work by the 15 November 2018. The group to provide the schools forum with an interim report in December 2018 and a final report in December 2019.

8. Required Outcomes

A report with recommendations, practical implementation and business cases to address the shortfall in the funding allocation on the high needs block.