

## **LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Date of meeting 14 January 2020**

### **Item No 8**

#### **Title: Recommendations of the High Needs Block Working Group**

#### **Appendix A refers**

#### **Executive Summary**

On 3 December 2020, the High Needs Block Working Group considered a number of reports, including:

- High Needs Block Funding 2020/21;
- High Needs Block Commissioned Places 2019/20;
- Hospital Education Report;
- Historic Commitments Combined Budget Funding 2020/21;
- High Needs Block Provision Task and Finish Group Report;
- Consultation on the Schools Block Funding Formula 2020/21 and Possible Transfer to the High Needs and Early Years Block;
- School Teaching and Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme.

#### **Recommendations**

The Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report from the High Needs Block Working Group held on 3 December 2020;
- b) Ratify the Group's recommendations.

## **Background**

On 3 December 2020, the High Needs Block Working Group considered a number of reports. A summary of the key issues and recommendations arising from the Working Group's considerations of the items are provided in this report.

### **1. High Needs Block Funding 2020/21**

At the last HNB meeting, information was provided about Government school funding announcements made in August 2019, which included a commitment for £700m extra funding for children with SEND in 2020/21.

In October 2019, further provisional details were released. All the allocations must be treated with caution as they are based on October 2018 pupil data. The actual DSG allocations in Lancashire are scheduled to be published later in December 2019, and could be lower than those in the provisional notification from the DfE, dependant on updated pupil data.

For HNB, a significant increase in funding is anticipated, but it was noted that increase funding may only offset the forecast increase in cost and demand led pressures from April 2020, which were estimated as a £13.2m overspend.

#### *Funding Uncertainties*

The school funding timetable provides that the County Council will receive final 2020/21 DSG allocations in mid December 2019. The date for the 2019 general election on 12 December 2019 puts increased pressure on school budget setting process, and depending on the outcome of the election may mean that the statutory deadlines cannot be met.

DfE colleagues have indicated that they will treat the issuing of DSG allocations as a priority with the new government, but could not offer any real insight into the length of any delay in issuing allocations. They were clear that the Regulations which govern the date that individual school budgets need to be issued at the end of February could not be changed, so the DfE submission deadline for LAs to provide an approved schools block budget to DfE remains 21 January 2020.

The Working Group:

- a) Noted the report.

### **2. High Needs Block Commissioned Places 2019/20**

The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations require that the Forum is consulted annually on the places to be commissioned by the local authority in different schools and other institutions, and on the arrangements for paying top-up funding.

#### *High Needs Place Change Notification Process 2020/21*

Each year the LA must submit a return to the DfE setting out the proposed changes to place numbers at certain types of institution, which are funded directly by the ESFA. The 2020/21 High Needs Place Change Notification return for Lancashire was submitted by the deadline of 15 November 2019, following sign off by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.

The place change return included proposals for:

- Special Academy Schools; (+18)
- FE Colleges; (-2)
- Mainstream Academy Schools - Post 16; (+3)
- Alternative Provision Academies.(no change)

The proposed 2020/21 commissioned places have been determined in consultation with the relevant providers.

#### *Hospital Education Places*

The place change process includes the opportunity to submit requests to change hospital education funding where there has been a change to medical provision locally. The place change submission included a request to increase the hospital education allocation for Lancashire in 2020/21.

*(A separate report is included on the agenda to request the increase in funding for hospital education.)*

#### *Local Place Changes*

In addition to those commissioned places that must be included on the DfE submission, the LA must commission other places locally. The report included other local 2020/21 commissioned place proposals for:

- Maintained Special Schools - Pre 16; (+148)
- Maintained Special Schools - Post 16; (-2)
- Alternative Provision; (-19)
- Maintained Mainstream Provision - SERF Units; (-11)
- Special Post 16 Institutions. (-13)

#### *Non-maintained special schools*

Separate arrangements exist for commissioning places at non-maintained special schools. 368 places were commissioned in 2019/20. Places at these schools are commissioned as required, based on the needs of children and young people throughout the year. The forecast number of places to be commissioned in 2020/21 is estimated at 387 pupils. The costs of these places at Non-maintained special schools will be dependent on the needs of the individual children.

#### *Arrangements for paying top-up funding to schools and other institutions*

Lancashire pupil related top up funding (pre and post 16) is currently calculated using Weighted Pupil Numbers (WPNs), which are used to fund the assessed need of each High Needs Pupil. Top-up funding is re-determined up or down termly in line with the SEN counts in January, May and October.

School specific top-up funding will also be allocated to special schools for the total number of all pre and post 16 Lancashire pupils on the SEN count, to reflect different school related costs.

Similarly, the funding mechanism for AP provides a top-up based on the needs of individual pupils and also a Pupil Referral Unit Specific top-up.

#### *Funded terms*

April - August	September - December	January - March
5/12	4/12	3/12

Members discussed the proposed 2020/21 commissioned place numbers and also the associated redetermination process. The group were supportive of the proposed commissioned places for 2020/21/ However, concerns were raised about the redetermination process, where pupil data was inaccurate, even when checked and corrected by schools, leading to inaccurate allocations each term. It was noted that the Special School Business Managers Network had already submitted correspondence to the LA outlining their concerns.

**The Working Group is asked to:**

- a) **Noted the report;**
- b) **Supported the proposed High Needs Block Commissioned Places in 2020/21, (a copy of the proposed HNB Commissioned Places for 2020/21 is attached at Appendix A);**
- c) **Requested that the HNB Chair write to the LA to express concerns about the data validity issues associated with the termly redetermination process.**

**3. Hospital Education Report**

*Audrey Swann, Head of Virtual School for CLA and previously CLA and Alternative Provision attended the WG for this item.*

Lancashire Education Service meets the local authority statutory duty to provide education out of school for children and young people with significant health needs who are hospital inpatients, in medical assessment placements or too ill to leave the home. The service consists of:

- o Classrooms in 3 general hospitals: Royal Preston (39 beds) Lancaster (24 beds) Ormskirk (24 beds);
- o ELCAS day ward in Burnley Hospital- 12 beds and outreach;
- o The Cove: CAMHs inpatient care- 14-18 beds;
- o Home Tuition provision across the county.

As a centrally managed LA service this provision is funded via the High Needs allocation to the LA. A request for increased funding has been completed for the ESFA. (See commissioned places report)

This report set out a request for increased funding required due to:

- increase in demand as a consequence of increased capacity in the Cove;
- Increased demand (3 year trend) in home tuition provision for pupils medically unfit to leave the home/ attend school or unit.

Information was provided about the current Hospital Education budget, the current staffing structure at the Cove and the additional staffing requirements due to the increased bed capacity. The increased costs for 2020/21 were estimated to be £81K/

Details of the rising demand for the Home Tuition Provision were also discussed. It was noted that these pupils are referred by senior medical practitioners and each case is by a medical education panel. Additional 2020/21 costs were estimated at £54k.

Members considered the information provided and the proposals to increase 2020/21 budgets. It was noted that the Chair of the working group had visited the Cove on 27 November 2019.

#### **The Working Group:**

- a) **Noted the report;**
- b) **Support the recommendation for additional funding of £135,000 in total to provide the level of education required for the LA to meet its statutory duties to provide good quality education for pupils with significant medical needs.**

#### **4. Historic Commitments Combined Budget Funding 2020/21**

The DfE funding announcements for 2020/21 indicate that there will be cash flat allocation in the formulaic 'Ongoing responsibilities' element of the budget, of the Central School Services Block, but the funding level for 'historic commitments' element will reduce by 20%.

As part of the 2019/20 budget setting process, the Forum considered Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) contributions to 'combined budgets' and agreed the following allocations, totalling £350k:

- Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service - £200k;
- MASH - £150k.

These allocations represent a significant reduction in the level of 'combined budget' contributions agreed by the Forum, with recent allocations shown below:

- 2017/18 - £1,243k;
- 2018/19 - £450k.

The decisions to reduce the level of funding for 2019/20 were taken partly in response to the DfE guidance about the need to reduce expenditure on historic commitments over time and partly due to the pressures facing the high needs block budget, with savings from these decision helping to mitigate HNB overspends.

For 2020/21, the initial allocations suggest that Lancashire may receive a significant HNB funding from April 2020, which is forecast to cover the increased HNB expenditure in 2020/21. In such circumstances, the LA is proposing that the 2019/20 allocations for the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service and MASH continue for 2020/21.

Details around the services' use of DSG funding over the last 12 months were provided for the working group. It was noted that these services received significant positive feedback in discussions with Forum last year and are valued by schools.

It was noted that there is a clear message from DfE that these combined budgets are expected to reduce to zero over time and it is likely that there will be further pressure to

reduce DSG contributions in FY 2021/22. Proposals about the use of this funding in subsequent years will be shared with the Forum in due course.

**The Working Group:**

- a) **Noted the report;**
- b) **Recommend to the Forum that the 2019/20 DSG allocation levels continue from April 2020 for MASH and the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service.**

**5. High Needs Block Provision Task and Finish Group Report**

The Working Group had received regular verbal updates about the work of the County Council's High Needs Block Task and Finish Group.

The Group's initial work had been agreed by the County Council's Cabinet and senior management but did not take account the additional £700m was being made available nationally in 2020/21 for High Needs Block.

Due to continued uncertainty caused by the general election, a decision was taken to create a number of specific projects to investigate key themes from the T&F group report. A copy of the original Task and Finish Group report was provided for members.

Following some streamlining, it has been agreed that 7 projects will be initiated to look at the key recommendations from the report and to develop proposals. The financial context would also be considered in the light of the increased HNB allocations.

Each project has a designated project leader and a finance lead.

The 7 projects are:

<b>Project No</b>	<b>Project Title</b>
1	Increasing the number of children placed locally
2	Closer partnership with Independent Non-Maintained Providers
3	Review of the Internal SEND Teaching Service
4	Support for Vulnerable Pupils
5	Partner Contribution to High Needs Placements
6	Further Education Provision
7	Review of Alternative Provision/Inclusion Projects

A verbal update was provided, giving more detailed around the initial considerations for each of the projects. Confirmation was provided that the initial report should only be considered a starting point and that proposals would be refined through the project plans before any final decision were taken about future HNB provision.

Members considered the information provided and noted that, where appropriate, these projects would link to the SEND Partnership Board Improvement Plan.

The WG supported the inclusion of a school sponsor for each project, although it was agreed that where school representatives already existed in the partnership board process, they would be best placed to continue as the sponsor for a related project plan. In the WG, the following representatives volunteered to act as school sponsors:

- Sarah Barton – Project 1, Increasing the number of children placed locally;
- Kathleen Cooper – Project 4, Support for Vulnerable Pupils;
- Anne Kyle - Project 7, Review of Alternative Provision/Inclusion Projects;
- Laura Brennan – Any group as needed, but EY focussed if available.

In addition, following discussions about some challenges around the transition between phases, it was suggested that Sue Allan may be able to offer assistance in the SEND partnership Board transition working group.

It was confirmed that regular updates on the progress of the project would be provided for the working group.

**The Working Group:**

- a) Noted the report and the supplementary information provided at the meeting;**
- b) Asked that volunteers to act as school project sponsors be considered alongside any nominations from Schools Block working group and existing partnership Board representatives.**

**6. Consultation on the Schools Block Funding Formula 2020/21 and Possible Transfer to the High Needs and Early Years Block**

At the Schools Forum meeting in October 2019, members supported the issuing of a consultation to seek views on areas of local discretion available in the 2020/21 school funding arrangements. The consultation was issued on 18 November and a copy of the consultation document was provided for the working group.

Key questions posed in the consultation relate to:

- The level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and capping in the local formula;
- A possible transfer of headroom only, from the Schools Block to be used in the High Needs Block and the Early Years Block;
- A possible alteration to the Notional SEN calculation.

The majority of responses to the consultation so far had expressed support for all the proposals. Final response would be reported to the Forum in January 2020 and, once 2020/21 DSG allocations were received from DfE, this would inform 2020/21 budget proposals

**The Working Group:**

- a) Noted the report and that final information would be presented to the Forum in January 2020.**

**7. School Teaching and Support Staff Supply Reimbursement Scheme**

*2019/20 Scheme Arrangements*

The scheme arrangements agreed with the Forum for 2019/20 looked to increase premiums and reimbursement rates to take account of the relevant teaching and support staff pay increases and the revised salary pay spine for support staff.

Following finalisation of the supply scheme arrangements with the Forum in January 2019 individual offers were issued to schools and academies for consideration. 430 schools took up some level of cover from April 2019, which was 9 fewer schools signed up for the scheme in 2019/20 than were involved in 2018/19.

#### *2020/21 Scheme Proposals*

Following a period of transition across recent years to move to a pupil/place led charging structure for the teaching element of the scheme, no significant changes are proposed for 2020/21.

It was suggested that both premiums and reimbursement rates are increased in line with forecast pay increases, which are currently estimated at 3% for teaching staff and 2% for support staff.

No other changes are proposed to the Scheme SLA, although it was confirmed that the option for bank account schools to pay on a monthly basis will remain available to assist these schools with their cash flow.

#### *Alternative Options for Consideration*

An alternative option to the proposed changes to premiums and reimbursement rates would be to leave them as they currently exist.

#### *Service Offer to Schools*

Once scheme arrangements and charging/reimbursement rates are finalised by the Forum in January 2020, a formal individualised 2020/21 scheme offer will be issued to all schools and academies.

#### **The Working Group:**

- a) **Noted the report;**
- b) **Supported the option to increase both premiums and reimbursement rates in line with forecast pay increases, which are currently estimated at 3% for teaching staff and 2% for support staff.**



**Special Academy Schools - Pre 16**

Sch No	School Name	2019/20 Academic Pre 16 Place Numbers	2020/21 Academic Pre 16 Place Numbers	Movement in Pre 16 Place Numbers	% Change
14130	Tor View Community Special School	129	147	18	14%
	<b>Total Special Academy Schools Pre 16 Place Numbers</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>18</b>	

**Special Academy Schools - Post 16**

Sch No	School Name	2019/20		2020/21	Movement in Post 16 Place Numbers	% Change
		Agreed Academic Post 16 (no change allowable)	Academic Additional Post 16 Place	Academic Post 16 Place Numbers		
14130	Tor View Community Special School	36	0	36	-	0%
	<b>Total Special Academy Schools Post 16 Place Numbers</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-</b>	

**FE Colleges - Post 16**

<b>Institution Name</b>	<b>2019/20 Current Place Numbers</b>	<b>2020/21 Revised Place Numbers</b>	<b>Movement in FE College Place Numbers</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Accrington and Rossendale College	56	0	-56	-100%
Burnley College	78	100	22	28%
Cardinal Newman College	55	36	-19	-35%
Lancaster and Morecambe College	100	102	2	2%
Myerscough College	254	316	62	24%
Nelson and Colne College	126	107	-19	-15%
Preston College	94	100	6	6%
Runshaw College	70	70	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>-2</b>	

**Mainstream Academy Schools - Post 16**

<b>Sch No</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>2019/20 Current Place Numbers</b>	<b>2020/21 Revised Place Numbers</b>	<b>Movement in Post 16 Place Numbers</b>	<b>% Change</b>
01502	Lancaster Royal Grammer	3	3	0	0%
01503	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	1	1	0	0%
11502	Clitheroe Royal Grammer School	2	2	0	0%
11505	Accrington St Christopher's CE High School	22	25	3	14%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	

### Alternative Provision Academies

<b>Sch No</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>2019/20 Current Place Numbers</b>	<b>2020/21 Revised Place Numbers</b>	<b>Movement in Post 16 Place Numbers</b>	<b>% Change</b>
12504	Coal Clough Academy	140	140	0	0%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	

## Maintained Special Schools - Pre 16

Sch No	School Name	2019/20 Academic Pre 16 Place Numbers	2020/21 Academic Pre 16 Place Numbers	Movement in Pre 16 Place Numbers	% Change
00131	Wennington Hall School	67	65	- 2	-3%
00133	Bleasdale School	24	22	- 2	-8%
00134	Royal Cross Primary School	22	21	- 1	-5%
00139	Hillside Specialist School and College	71	72	1	1%
01130	Morecambe And Heysham Morecambe Road School	143	154	11	8%
01131	The Loyne Specialist School	73	76	3	4%
02130	Great Arley School	94	101	7	7%
02131	Brookfield School. Poulton-Le-Fylde	57	64	7	12%
02132	Thornton Cleveleys Red Marsh School	68	71	3	4%
04133	Kirkham Pear Tree School	75	75	-	0%
06131	Moorbrook School	34	44	10	29%
06134	Acorns Primary School	74	74	-	0%
06135	Sir Tom Finney Community High School	102	115	13	13%
07130	Moor Hey School - A Specialist Mathematics And Computing College	104	108	4	4%
07131	The Coppice School	55	53	- 2	-4%
08135	Hope High School	56	61	5	9%
08136	Kingsbury Primary School	81	79	- 2	-2%
08137	West Lancashire Community High School	67	76	9	13%
08138	Elm Tree Community Primary School	91	109	18	20%
09130	Chorley Astley Park School	172	170	- 2	-1%
09131	Mayfield Specialist School	92	97	5	5%
11130	Oswaldtwistle White Ash School	99	103	4	4%
11131	Broadfield Specialist School For Sen (Cognition And Learning)	106	110	4	4%
12134	The Rose School	63	67	4	6%
12135	Holly Grove School	112	113	1	1%
12136	Ridgewood Community High School	96	108	12	13%
13133	Pendle View Primary School	105	119	14	13%
13134	Pendle Community High School And College	72	84	12	17%
14132	Rawtenstall Cribden House Community Special School	65	77	12	18%
	<b>Total Maintained Special Schools Pre 16 Place Numbers</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>148</b>	

## Maintained Special Schools - Post 16

Sch No	School Name	2019/2020 Agreed Post 16 Place (no change allowable)	2020/21 Post 16 Place	Movement in Post 16 Place Numbers	% Change
00131	Wennington Hall School	-	-	-	0%
00133	Bleasdale School	4	7	3	75%
00134	Royal Cross Primary School	-	-	-	0%
00139	Hillside Specialist School and College	16	17	1	6%
01130	Morecambe And Heysham Morecambe Road School	-	-	-	0%
01131	The Loyne Specialist School	39	37	- 2	-5%
02130	Great Arley School	-	-	-	0%
02131	Brookfield School. Poulton-Le-Fylde	-	-	-	0%
02132	Thornton Cleveleys Red Marsh School	20	19	- 1	-5%
04133	Kirkham Pear Tree School	20	28	8	40%
06131	Moorbrook School	-	-	-	0%
06134	Acorns Primary School	-	-	-	0%
06135	Sir Tom Finney Community High School	53	53	-	0%
07130	Moor Hey School - A Specialist Mathematics And Computing College	-	-	-	0%
07131	The Coppice School	12	12	-	0%
08135	Hope High School	-	-	-	0%
08136	Kingsbury Primary School	-	-	-	0%
08137	West Lancashire Community High School	35	26	- 9	-26%
08138	Elm Tree Community Primary School	-	-	-	0%
09130	Chorley Astley Park School	-	-	-	0%
09131	Mayfield Specialist School	24	20	- 4	-17%
11130	Oswaldtwistle White Ash School	-	-	-	0%
11131	Broadfield Specialist School For Sen (Cognition And Learning)	32	33	1	3%
12134	The Rose School	-	-	-	0%
12135	Holly Grove School	-	-	-	0%
12136	Ridgewood Community High School	16	22	6	38%
13133	Pendle View Primary School	-	-	-	0%
13134	Pendle Community High School And College	49	44	- 5	-10%
14132	Rawtenstall Cribden House Community Special School	-	-	-	0%
	<b>Total Maintained Special Schools Post 16 Place Numbers</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>- 2</b>	

## Alternative Provision

AP No	AP Name	2019/20 Academic Place Numbers	2020/21 Academic Place Numbers	Movement in AP Place Numbers	% Change
	<b>Primary</b>				
01141	Stepping Stones	32	32	0	0%
07141	Golden Hill Leyland Centre	44	50	6	14%
13143	Hendon Brook School	34	34	0	0%
08138	Elm Tree Community Primary	0	0	0	0%
	The Alternative School	10	15	5	50%
	Other	0	0	0	0%
	<b>Secondary</b>				
01149	Chadwick Centre	85	75	-10	-12%
02143	Mckee College House	130	130	0	0%
08147	The Acorns School	75	75	0	0%
09145	Shaftesbury High School	120	120	0	0%
06141	Larches House School	135	110	-25	-19%
11142	Oswaldtwitlse School	90	95	5	6%
	The Alternative School	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
	Other : College	100	100	0	0%
	<b>Total AP Place Numbers</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>-19</b>	

### Maintained Mainstream Provision - SERF Units

School No	School Name	2019/20 Academic SERF Places	2020/21 Academic SERF Places	Movement in SERF Place Numbers	% Change
01011	Lancaster Ridge Community Primary School	0	0	0	0%
01015	Moorside Primary School	3	0	-3	-100%
06012	Holme Slack Community Primary School	3	2	-1	-33%
06033	Ashton Primary School	0	0	0	0%
08033	Holland Moor Primary School	4	2	-2	-50%
11025	Oswaldtwistle Moor End Community Primary Scho	4	3	-1	-25%
12022	Burnley Ightenhill Primary School	0	0	0	0%
12043	Burnley Springfield Community Primary School	0	0	0	0%
06104	Ashton Community Science College	14	10	-4	-29%
12111	Hameldon Community College	0	0	0	0%
	<b>Total SERF Places</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-11</b>	



**Special Post 16 Institutions**

<b>Year</b>	<b>North Day</b>	<b>North Residential</b>	<b>Central Day</b>	<b>Central Residential</b>	<b>East Day</b>	<b>East Residential</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1</b>	6	4	4	3	2	1	<b>20</b>
<b>2</b>	3	1	6	2	1	4	<b>17</b>
<b>3</b>	7	2	10	1	2	0	<b>22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>59</b>

Decrease from 72 in 2019/20