

MINUTES

Title of Meeting:	School's Forum High Needs Working Group	
Purpose or Mandate:	To oversee the HNB of the DSG	
Date:	9 September 2021	
Place:	Microsoft Teams	
Times:	3.30-4:15pm	
Attendees:	Gemma Morgan (Chair) Michael Quinton Alison Bowman Allison Coleman Lawrence Chapman Graham Alcock Sally Garrett Darron Jackson Sarah Wood Chris Komodromos Ashlee Jacobs Jan Hatchell Jacqui Frost Abbie Thorrington Lisa Jones Steve Newman Joy Settle Samantha Porter Helen Murray Claire Willis Sue Prickett	Head of SEND Funding and Provider Services, SCC Schools Funding Policy Manager SCC Governor, Earl Soham Primary School Governor, Federation of Fairfield and Colneis Schools CEO SENDAT Headteacher, Chalk Hill PRU Headteacher, Ashley School Headteacher, Gorseland Primary School Headteacher, Waldringfield Primary School Headteacher, Churchill School Raedwald Trust Headteacher, Riverwalk School SPHA Ipswich Academy Consortium Multi-Academy Trust SEND Policy and Funding Manager, SCC High Needs Funding Moderation Lead, SCC Whitehouse Wickham Market Primary School Murrayfield Primary School Chief Finance and Operations Officer, SENDAT

Item	Minutes	Actions
1 Welcome and Apologies	Samantha Porter, Alison Bowman, Helen Murray	
2 Minutes from the last meeting	No issues with minutes from last meeting and actions have been completed.	
3 Update on Summer Term Moderation and Comparisons of High Needs Funding	JS explained that we can now draw comparisons on previous data as we now have 3 full years of the new system. There has been a large effect in the summer term with mental health needs, but it is hard to say whether that's been affected from pandemic. Last summer in mainstream we had just over 100 moderation cases and this summer we had 400. As we went through the moderation process, we started to see the moderators becoming very unsure as to whether the needs were	

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	<p>long term. We wanted bands to be as accurate as possible and for schools to have the funding they need at this moment in time but didn't want to make these permanent, so have implemented just over 100 temporary bandings that will be reviewed next summer. 278 bands came to JS to check for a second time that the correct banding was given. Only applied temporary banding where Covid was stated in the evidence. JS explained they sent out emails to advise what the temporary banding means and what will happen. Only 3 schools replied to the email. Cannot tell until next term when we see those evidence forms to advise whether temporary bandings will continue.</p> <p>A lot more banding requests from specialist schools this term whereas no applications for new bands was requested last term. 58 was received this summer and 36 of those were band 1's. No temporary bandings were given to those in specialist settings. Received an increase in band 1 applications this term and also had requests for bands to go down.</p> <p>In terms of data, temporary bands did hold most increase, although we saw a rise in mainstream.</p>	
<p>4 Schools Forum (October and November)</p>	<p>GM explained she will not be taking a paper to October Schools Forum as it is not necessary at this time. GM will be going to November Schools Forum with further information about DSG deficit. Currently producing a template for the DfE that shows our recovery plan, this will be shared at Schools Forum. DfE haven't asked any local authorities to submit recovery plans yet. GM has been looking at other local authorities' funding and has learnt that others with higher budgets also have a higher deficit. Our deficit of £15 million is not ideal but it is on par with our statistical neighbours. Planning to bring this research into the paper for November's Schools Forum. Paper will be written soon, just awaiting information from finance. Will be shared ahead of November meeting.</p> <p>New high needs funding formula from DfE was 8.08% which is very low. Data is based on 2017/18 spend. In 2017/18 we didn't overspend. If other LA overspend in 2017/18, they got a higher percentage. Gemma will share with forum and will add the 2017/18 data in report.</p>	
<p>5 High Needs Block Overspend</p>	<p>In 2020/21 we predicted that the high needs overspend would be £3.3m but this has increase to £4 million due to increased demand. More children are being put into independent places and having to have bespoke packages etc. to meet need.</p> <p>Our 2021/22 settlement from the DfE will still cover this overspend. If that changes it will be in the paper. Steve keeping robust records of all payments. 300% increase in banding requests in the Summer was not expected. It is extremely difficult to predict future years but if we used this year as a base for next year then we would have a £10 million overspend, therefore we need to find another way to predict our future</p>	

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	spend Currently keeping finance informed of the situation we are in.	
6 Dual Placement Policy Update	SN explained the policy was taken to 'Policy and Procedure panel'. First views were well received only a few tweaks recommended. Needs work around transport and as we didn't want to contradict the current policy on transport. It was agreed that the transport policy should fit around our policy. Another meeting on 15 th September to discuss the policy. Will make any adaptations from various members before then returning it to the 'Policy and Procedure Pane' to be approved.	
7 AOB	None	

Future Meeting Dates	
High Needs Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Nov 2021 	Schools Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Oct 2021 • 30 Nov 2021