

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS GROUP:

John Constable (Chair), Peter Collins, Philip Gregory, Ray Hinds, Valerie Haffrey, Kathleen Higgins, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Carol Pearce, Kathy Perry, Jon Reekie, Jo Rockall, Maggie Waller, Nicky Willis, Maxine Wood, Jamie Rockman, Coral Snowden and Neil Sykes

OBSERVERS:

Jo Matthews, Eddie Neighbour and Councillor Shabnum Sadiq

LOCAL AUTHORITY:

Domenico Barani, Cate Duffy, Michael Jarrett, Johnny Kyriacou, Neil Wilcox and John Wood

**DATE & TIME: WEDNESDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 2020 AT 8.00AM FOR 8.15AM
BEECHWOOD RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
LONG READINGS LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL2 1QE**

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

The following documents were tabled under items 11, 12 and 13 as they were not available for publication with the rest of the agenda:

	<u>Page</u>
11. High Needs Place Change Notification	(Pages 1 - 4)
12. SEND Banding quarterly update	
13. DSG Deficit Recovery Plan: DfE response and update	

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EXTRACT FROM ESFA PLACES RETURN 2020-21 FOR ACADEMIES AND FE

		2020/21 Revised Place Numbers	Difference in 2020/21 Against 2019/20	% Change	Comments
ARBOUR VALE SCHOOL	ACADEMY - SPECIAL	317	13	4%	Maximum capacity reached.
CASTLEVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	22	0	0%	
COLNBROOK CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	10	0	0%	
DITTON PARK ACADEMY	FREE SCHOOL - MAINSTREAM	16	4	25%	
HAYBROOK COLLEGE	ACADEMY - AP	192	11	6%	Addition of <i>Pitstop</i> provision
LITLEDOWN SCHOOL	ACADEMY - SPECIAL	57	2	4%	
MARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	45	0	0%	
PHOENIX INFANT ACADEMY	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	12	2	17%	
RYVERS SCHOOL	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	8	0	0%	
SLOUGH AND ETON CHURCH OF ENGLAND BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	23	0	0%	
ST ETHELBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	10	0	0%	
THE GODOLPHIN JUNIOR ACADEMY	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	9	0	0%	
THE LANGLEY ACADEMY	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	8	0	0%	
THE WESTGATE SCHOOL	ACADEMY - MAINSTREAM	15	0	0%	
WINDSOR FOREST COLLEGES GROUP	FURTHER EDUCATION PROVIDER	106	40	38%	Previous year uplift had been missed.
	Total	850	72		

**Second Review of SEND Banding (top-up funding) Model
Schools Forum
15th January 2019**

Update

1. Findings are similar those reported in the first report (*available under agenda item 9, Schools Forum meeting held on 1 October 2019*)
2. Generally, bandings suggested by schools continue to be higher than those suggested by the panel but the gap continues to narrow.
3. Cases with more significant gaps generally involve special schools:
 - Where the school has prior knowledge of the child disputes can generally be resolved through discussion and can also indicate that some improvement to the banding system is needed (see 4 below)
 - Panel decisions are being challenged for children who have not been assessed/observed by the school eg for referrals for September 2020
4. Areas for improvement include the Hearing Impairment and SEMH sections, both of which need to be more 'sophisticated' eg for SEMH – the model needs to be more sensitive to the issues of dealing with anxiety and behaviour
5. There has been positive feedback on the model from Manor Green though they have also suggested improvements to the SEMH section.
6. The banding model was adopted by RBWM last year and was praised by Ofsted in the recent Local Area Re-inspection!
7. The previous report included a financial analysis which attempted to identify and analyse the financial impact of the new system. The results were unsurprisingly mixed due to the small dataset. An increased cost to the HNB was reported and this pressure continues.

Next Steps

1. The next review will include further analysis of the relative scores/bands calculated by the schools, officers and panel. However, an assessment of the impact of the model on HN expenditure will require the review of specialist places to be completed.
2. Work will be carried out eg with special schools, EPs and Sensory Consortium to improve the model

Next reviews:

- April 2020
- July 2020

DSG RECOVERY PLAN – BRIEFING FOR SCHOOLS FORUM – 15TH JANUARY

Background

- Plan submitted June '19 – ESFA response received October '19 - Meeting 22nd January 2020
- DfE response was critical, requiring further explanations and evidence
- Have offered help in developing a revised plan

Feedback – selected key points: *(DfE response, available under agenda item 13 for Schools Forum meeting held on 15 January 2020 refers).*

Full narrative: *(agenda item 7 for Schools Forum meeting held on 4 July 2019 refers).*

- Lack of projections for EHCPs – claims not supported by statistics in plan eg graphs showed a possible slowing down in the total EHCPs and in new EHCPs
- Savings not aligned with improvement measures
- Some savings were actually transfers between blocks so had no overall impact on the DSG position
- Some improvement measures needed further development eg more evidence to support statements, some such as the RB need to be concluded
- No further (0.5%) transfers from SB to HNB – ESFA assume additional HN funding removes requirement. Therefore, a further £0.44m pressure for HNB 20-21 and 21-22 compared to original plan

Council Position and Response

- the council recognises that the plan needs considerable reworking and welcomes the support which the ESFA has offered
- the council also acknowledges that its deficit is disproportionately high and that expenditure needs to be brought under control and reduced
- however it remains of the opinion that it is underfunded with respect to high needs
- The council has already commenced a reworking of the plan which will be based on the following:
 - Any proposals for savings, cost reduction or other improvement measures will need to be linked to the SEND Strategy and agreed needs.
 - Proposals will need to have been tested, be deliverable and sustainable.
 - Realisation of benefits will be categorised as short, medium and long term

- Targets will need to be set eg. the percentage of EHCPs as a proportion of total school places – currently about 30% higher than national average of 2.9%
- Projections for places will need to be more sophisticated and aligned to pathways and priority areas such as complex and/or high cost placements
- More detailed analysis of EHCPs eg separating out mainstream EHCPs with no top up:

Jan	Number of EHCPs			Number of new issued EHCPs	
2015	829		2015	90	
2016	842		2016	106	
2017	959	understated	2017	183	
2018	1388		2018	185	
2019	1295		2019	167	
2020	1450	tbc	2020	215	tbc

- Acknowledgment that investment might be required to achieve longer term savings/benefits
- The original recovery plan had 2019-20 has Year 1 but this is not now valid. A full year effect cannot be achieved for 2020-21 so we will need to discuss with the ESFA what should become 'Year 1', 20-21 or 21-22. However, major changes are expected for 21-22 and will need to be agreed by Autumn 2020

Next Steps

- Complete preparations for meeting
- Expected outcomes from meeting:
 - Agreement on scope and content of plan
 - Further information required by ESFA
 - Timeline
- Share outputs with Schools Forum, partners etc
- Mobilise resource for implementation

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