

## **Slough Schools Forum January 10<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### **Special Educational Needs Resource Bases in mainstream schools**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**This report is for information only**

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1.1 At the end of July 2016 Cambridge Education published a review of RBs at mainstream schools in Slough. This review had been jointly commissioned by Slough Borough Council and Slough Children's Services Trust.

2.1.2 The terms of reference for the review were drawn up in response to concerns expressed by some head teachers that the banding system for the allocation of funding for SEN Resource Bases no longer adequately reflects the complexities of need of the children placed therein and should be revised. Due to staff changes within the SBC SEND team the process for annually reviewing the SLA with each school also fell into abeyance, reducing opportunities to address issues about the resource base designation, admissions criteria and the number of pupil places purchased by the Local Authority.

2.1.3 The summary findings were shared with all schools at the end of last academic year and an external project manager (Monica Quinn) appointed in late August to work with each school to develop proposals for implementation of the aspects of the review (including future needs/capacity) that related to the individual school

2.1.4 This work also led to the creation of a series of draft templates (shared with schools in November 2016) in relation to designations, Service Level Agreement or Contract, model job descriptions and admissions processes.

2.1.5 During the review and the subsequent project development, as well as part of the process for admissions to RB places for September 2016, significant concerns were articulated about the overall quantity of RB places and their distribution across the geography of Slough, with a few RBs having spare places and many others being asked (and agreeing) to admit pupils significantly in addition to their commissioned places.

2.1.6 In November 2016, the DfE required information to be submitted as part of their Place Change Notification process. This related only to RBs at Academies and Free Schools and to Post 16 places at GFE Colleges. The numbers submitted by Slough for RBs for Sept 2017 are set out in the table

below, which also shows the proposed RB places at maintained schools. There is no guarantee that the DfE will agree to these proposals. We should have their response before the end of January 2017.

Academy	Sept 2015 commissioned places	Sept 2017 commissioned places
Castleview	15	22
Godolphin Infants	9	10
Godolphin Junior	12	8
Langley	5	5
Ryvers	8	8
Marish	18	30
Westgate	15	15
St Ethelberts	N/A	5
Colnbrook	12	0
Foxborough	8	8
Slough & Eton	15	15
Ditton Park	0	4
Maintained		
St Ethelberts	10	N/A
Priory	50	60
Wexham	18	18
	196	208

2.1.7 There was no opportunity to involve and consult Schools Forum prior to submitting these figures in line with the DfE deadline of November 25<sup>th</sup>. Future forward agenda for the Schools Forum should include this consultation item for the October meeting for as long as the Place Change Notification process (or its equivalent) continues to exist.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

The contractual agreements and admissions arrangements for all RBs will be finalised with schools by the end of this term so that they are implemented from the start of the new financial year.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Not applicable

### **6. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Summary Review Published July 2016

### **7. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Not applicable at this stage, but all proposals relating to the new contractual agreements and the restoration of admissions processes will be subject to detailed finance and legal advice

## **8. CONSULTATION**

All schools with RBs have been involved in these processes and the summary of the review was shared with all schools

## **9 RECOMMENDATION**

**This report is for information only**

**Contact for further information –**

**Robert Hardy  
Interim Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Slough Children's  
Services Trust  
Direct Line 01753 787674**