

**Schools Forum**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**SEND Update**

**SEN Statutory Assessment Team**

The proposal structure of the statutory assessment function together with the role of education psychology has a single manager covering both areas of responsibility. This brings together a more coherent framework of management to these two statutory areas. Internal recruitment to this management post has not identified a candidate and therefore we are about to go out to external advert for this post. In the interim we are currently seeking to appoint an interim arrangement to manage the statutory assessment team whilst the current Principal Educational Psychologist will continue in her role until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

It is recognised that whilst we are in the process of transferring Statements of Special Educational Needs to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) there has been a considerable increase in workload for the existing case workers. Schools Forum will know that all Statements of Special Educational Needs need to be transferred to EHCPs by the end of the Summer Term 2018 and all Learning Disability Assessments (LDAs) transferred by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. In order to increase the capacity of the team in relation to the transfer of Statements it has been to appoint additional people to fixed term contracts to join the team. Over the coming weeks once all formal recruitment processes have been made schools will be provided with an up to date list of team members.

**Appointment of New Head of Service: Special Educational Needs and Inclusion (SENDI)**

Claire Goss has been appointed as the new permanent Head of Service. Claire will start her employment with us on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

**Commissioning of Special Educational Provision**

Local Authorities have a responsibility to review its special education provision. Now with the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 since September 2014 it is timely for Walsall to review its current provision. The introduction of EHCPs together with the increasing role of Local Authorities in their commissioning roles we are starting work now to scope out a plan to look at our current provision both in special schools and in mainstream schools to see where we need to work with our providers to meet the changing landscape of needs for our children and young people. Part of this process will involve discussions with schools and colleagues in health and social care. Any proposed changes will involve wider consultation. Although we are at the planning stage now much of this work will be carried out in the coming autumn and spring terms.

Phil Ward: Interim Head of Service (SENDI)