

Schools Forum 16 January 2019

Update on the Development of an Inclusion Focussed Integrated Behaviour Support Service

1. Summary

- 1.1 To advise Schools Forum on the progress to develop an Inclusion Focused Integrated Behaviour Support Service, following support by Schools Forum at their meeting in January 2018 to utilise one-off DSG reserve funds for this purpose.
- 1.2 This report should be read alongside another report on this meeting's agenda in relation to the proposed creation of a multi-disciplinary team based in localities to support the needs of vulnerable learners.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Schools Forum notes the work that has been undertaken in year, the outcome of the review that was commissioned by the Director of Children's Services, the draft Inclusion Strategy that is currently being consulted on and the proposed model of support that the authority is seeking to implement in support of this (see separate report on this meeting's agenda in relation to the proposed creation of a multi-disciplinary team based in localities to support the needs of vulnerable learners).

3. Report detail

- 3.1 Historically the Behaviour Support Service in Walsall has been supported via the use of de-delegated funds from maintained schools in the borough.
- 3.2 Following the decision of Schools Forum in October 2017 not to continue to support de-delegation for this service from the 2018/19 financial year, in January 2018 Schools Forum supported the one-off use of DSG reserve funds to support the implementation of revised Inclusion Focused Integrated Behaviour Support Service, that would seek to work alongside schools with the aim of moving to a fully traded model going forwards, with specific aims of:
 - a) *Ensuring there is a reasonable timeframe in place to develop a traded model of Integrated Behaviour Support for both primary and secondary sectors without loss of expertise.*
 - b) *Ensuring the established partnership between the Access Team and CAMHS continues.*
 - c) *Further developing the Integrated Behaviour Support Service by introducing two Family Support Workers to ensure a fully collaborative approach across school and the home and support which is co-ordinated and interventions are complimentary being guided by the service and school in the best interests of the child.*

d) *Ensuring there is an appropriate level of specialist support to help schools settle children through the Fair Access Panel and provide additional specialist support with complex cases of children missing from education.*

3.3 Following this decision, in order to support the future direction and development of the service in line with the aims agreed by Forum, in April 2018, the Director of Children's Services commissioned a review of the council's preparedness to test out the effectiveness of SEND practice prior to an Ofsted Inspection of how well it supports children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The outcome of this review highlighted significant issues that included:

- The Integrated Behavior Support Team and Access Team has had little impact on preventing or reducing exclusions or making sure that those Missing Education and Missing from Education have an appropriate and timely educational placement to meet their needs.
- The LA processes for identifying appropriate placements for vulnerable children and young people out of school is not effective.

3.4 These findings supported the authority to conclude that its existing processes, procedures and support services have not delivered the required improvement in educational outcomes for children and young people in the borough. In particular, the gap between vulnerable learners (SEN support, LAC and those at risk of exclusion or out of education) has widened, exclusions are too high, persistent absence at our Secondary Special Schools is too high and there are too many children and young people out of education (CME/CfME).

3.5 To address these findings the authority has now developed a draft Inclusion Strategy, which is currently out for consultation and sets out ambitious strategic priorities based on an assumption that, given the right environment, culture, approach and circumstances all our children and young people can thrive, flourish and achieve great outcomes. The Strategy sets out a fundamental expectation that Inclusion in Walsall is everyone's right and everyone's responsibility. This will only be achieved if there is a strong relationship between schools and the Local Authority based on a restorative approach of high support and high challenge.

3.6 Given this position the authority is not currently proposing to take forward the development of the behaviour support service that was originally envisaged when it reported to Schools Forum in January 2018. The revised proposal that the authority is now seeking to take forward is set out within a separate report on this meetings agenda in relation to the creation of a multi-disciplinary team based in localities to support the needs of vulnerable learners.

4. Financial implications

4.1 In January 2018 Schools Forum supported the one-off use of DSG reserves of £660k to support the continued provision of a primary behaviour support service

(£250k) and secondary behaviour support service (£250k) and support to schools for children settled through the FAP process (£160k).

4.2 These services have continued to be provided throughout 2018/19 whilst the review mentioned at section 3 above took place, and it is currently forecast that funds will be fully utilised to continue providing these services until the end of the financial year.

5. Members eligible to vote

5.1 This report provides an update only and does not require a vote from members.

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