



**North Northamptonshire Schools Forum
SEND Update
17th March 2022**

1. Purpose of Report

To update the schools forum on the strategic delivery plan that has been developed to improve outcomes for children and young people with additional needs, including Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The delivery plan, which set out three clear priorities, will provide a guide for determining the work of the HNB task, as well as future items for the school's forum.

The three key priorities set out are:

- To support schools in developing local provision by strengthening an early help offer of **SEND health and education local teams around our mainstream schools**
- Reviewing and developing **responsive, flexible and effective local specialist provision** as part of an annual cycle
- Ensuring the governance arrangements for specialist resources are effectively managing demand and need and **responsive to assess and review need**

To do this we are implementing **quality assurance reporting systems** and using these to **drive through improved performance**

1.2 The purpose of the strategy is to put in place a programme that will inform the development of the High Needs budget and the forecast going forward. At the next meeting of the schools forum the forecast budget position for the High Needs Block (HNB) of the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) 2022/23 will be shared alongside an update on the sufficiency report that is underway to inform on the development of current and future SEND needs.

2. Decision(s) recommended

2.1 To note, discuss and comment on the SEND delivery plan to improve the Council's support for children with SEND.

3. Matters for Consideration

3.1 The forum will be aware that the Children & Families Act 2014 introduced major changes for children and young people with SEND and that this has resulted in significant pressure for all LAs nationally, both with the increasing demand for statutory support through Education, Health & Care Plans and also the resultant impact on the DSG High Needs budgets.

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3.2 There is an acknowledged problem nationally that the High Needs Block within the DSG is underfunded. Over 80% of local authorities are reporting a High Needs Block deficit and the scale of the shortfall in funding.

3.3 The impact of Covid 19 has also had a significant effect on local authorities and schools.

7. Recommendation

School's Forum is asked to consider this report and accompanying presentation, note and comment on the approach and progress on more effectively meeting SEND needs, and identify any specific areas for a more detailed report to a future meeting

Report Author:

Your name: Nichola Jones

Your title: Head of SEND

Email address: nichola.jones@northnorthants.gov.uk