

High Needs Task Group – Key Areas to tackle the issues outlined in the TOR from the Schools Forum

The list below was taken from the discussion at the group. The leads and members of each group are suggestions which will be ratified at meeting on Monday 7th March. Additional members can be added.

The work is expected to take place outside of the Task and Finish group meetings.

A brief for each of the below will need to be developed. A pro-forma will be provided to support this.

A) How many special places do we need? Lead = Sara Catlow-Hawkins + Andy Hough + Sian Bailey

- Review current specialist population in terms of individual need and factor into Capital Investment Strategy
- What is the national % for SLD/PMLD?
- How many MLD children in Herefordshire schools (5-16) – data source Tribal for Statement/EHC Plan (rationale is that would need a statutory plan to attend specialist provision)?
- What MLD arrangements in West Midlands – resourced provision, schools?
- What proportion of parents would opt for mainstream v special?
- How would additional cost (including transport) be funded?
- National evidence on outcomes for MLD children in mainstream v MLD special/resourced provision?

B) What should mainstream schools do to provide the best offer for those with learning difficulties? Lead = Simon Robertson/Julie Rees and/or Liz Kearns + Hilary Walmsley

- Definition of what a mainstream school should provide is required
- Is a continuum of provision required? Collaborative approach between mainstream and special to pool resources including staff and/or provision - formal dual registration
- CPD
 - how to retain staff that have received specialist training?
 - could schools including special schools
 - SENCo Networks/IPCo Clusters?

C) How do we improve the offer for young people with SEND post-16 (both MLD and SLD/PMLD includes post-19)? Lead = Alexia Heath + Oremi Gilbert

- Personalised transition offer
- Genuinely independent IAG
- What do other areas do?
 - Mainstream Post 16 provision
 - Exploring possibility of Post 16 Hub for MLD
- Consider information from Area Based Review
- Model of personalised, scaffolded support into Post 16 for particular groups (ie successful approach trialled at Brookfield)

D) How could we prevent high cost residential placements, particularly for ASD/LD and challenging behaviour? Lead – Les Knight + Lisa Appleton

- Collaborative multi-agency approach required from EY onwards (Early Bird/portage) with escalation via assess-plan-do-review
- Suitable range of care arrangements in Herefordshire
- Viability of short break/Vale of Evesham model

E) How could we improve Early Years provision to prevent later underachievement (and cost)?

Lead – Sue Sharp + Hilary Walmsley

- Health provision - SaLT in schools/EY, school nurses (note – difference between clinical need and preventative work; school nurse is latter)
- CDC – waiting lists, what are the expected outcomes, referral routes, liaison with schools, too Hereford centred (outreach?)

- Common understanding of services available for EY and how they can be accessed
- Portage – is there sufficient?
- Is it easy enough for 2 year olds to access Nursery provision? Is there sufficient funding?

F) Review of High Needs Matrix Lead – Ed Edwards + Malcolm Green

- Consider matrix descriptors in light of work by independent consultant
- Consideration of amounts, funding bands and weightings