

7 Update on high needs block working group meeting (4 December)

December. Separate groups were being established to take forward the individual areas within the terms of reference:

- x Sufficiency: how to create additional places in September 2021 to maximise the use of the good and outstanding specialist school provision in Surrey, for key stage transfers in Sept 2021 but also for children who could be moved into Surrey schools mid key stage and for children needing placements part way through the year. A letter was being sent to every school in Surrey inviting expressions of interest in new provision for a third

One member commented that it had been a really positive meeting in identifying the right people to lead change.

The Family Voice rep welcomed the focus on children with anxiety and also noted that the AP survey had followed consultation with Family Voice.

The Family Voice rep expressed concerns that some parents had been told that they could not access wrap around care because of contractual difficulties in extending hours of staff providing 1:1 support.

8 Update on special schools banding group

EG reported that a working group of special school headteachers was meeting regularly. They had considered a core financial analysis and agreed an outline structure. Seven needs bands were proposed across all special schools, the seventh (highest) would be for individual negotiations for the highest cost pupils, who might otherwise need to be placed in independent schools. The thresholds for each band had yet to be agreed. Bands would relate to the child not to the school and should be identified on placement. In most schools, most pupils would be on the t1a-mm 0

EG argued that developing the descriptors increased transparency over how needs (as expressed in an EHCP) related to funding. The proposals aimed to move funding from IPSB into the extended banding but would not undermine EHCPs. There was a need to reduce the administration for special schools and the LA around IPSB funding. He hoped to reach agreement at the next meeting on a set of descriptors, which could then be shared more widely.

LM noted that a banding system was already used in funding special schools but that we were trying to refine it to take into account changing needs.

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11 Schools Forum business
Note change of date of May meeting (to 14 May)