

FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL HIGH NEEDS CONVERSATIONS WITH SPECIAL SCHOOLS, RESOURCE BASES, PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS and POST 16 ESTABLISHMENTS -

YOU SAID/WE DID.....

As part of the annual cycle of High Needs Returns to the Education Skills and Funding Agency each of our Special Schools, Resource Bases, Pupil Referral Units and Post 16 establishments were invited to meet with SEND Commissioning to discuss place numbers, trends, pressures, and other feedback that the Headteachers considered important for future management of their establishments.

The following is a capture of the areas discussed so that feedback can be shared on what can be done and what will need further consideration by our Heads of Service and Commissioning by working in Partnership with our Special Schools, Resource Bases, Pupil Referral Units and Post 16 Establishments.

YOU SAID.....	WE DID.....
<p>Increased complexity of children and young people.</p>	<p>The increased complexity of our children and young people is acknowledged by all partners in Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Our recently introduced Graduated Response statement is intended to identify children with SEND needs earlier which in turn will enable those with more complex needs to be supported by a multi-agency response to include Health, Education and Social Care.</p>

	Our Family Hubs will work alongside other services to support early identification and intervention.
More teaching staff needed to support personal needs of some pupils.	The renewed vigour and attention given to the assessment and preparation of Education Health and Care Plans will ensure that Social Care and Health are involved in the assessment and delivery of support requirements based on need.
Early intervention needed in Early Years/Mainstream to reduce demand for Special Schools.	<p>In addition to the Graduated Response our Inclusion agenda will aim to enable our pupils to stay in mainstream provision with the support required to achieve the best outcomes for each pupil.</p> <p>Our Family Hubs will work alongside other services to support early identification and intervention.</p> <p>There will always be those pupils who will need the excellent and experienced offer of our Special Schools.</p>
Increased consultations from OOC authorities.	We will aim to work with our commissioning colleagues as well as Senstart colleagues to develop a more centralised process for consultations from other local authorities whilst keeping in mind the legal requirements of the SEND Code of Practice.
Timely consultation and feedback re school placements.	We will aim to work with Senstart to ensure timely consultations and timely feedback whilst keeping in mind the legal requirements of the SEND Code of Practice.
Timing of consultation over 6 week summer break –Wolverhampton and other Local Authorities in the Black Country.	We can apply an exception over the summer when schools are closed for 4 weeks. We perhaps need to be more robust with the application of exemptions in these situations around consultations for EHCPs that could have otherwise been compliant.

	<p>As we have been largely non-compliant that has not been possible in recent years but moving forward this is not going to be the case.</p> <p>This will need to keep in mind the legal requirements of the SEND Code of Practice.</p>
Inappropriate referrals – work with Senstart.	<p>The improvement work implemented across the development of the Education Health and Care plans has an aim to improve the quality of all referrals and Education Health and Care plans.</p> <p>All referrals will require a multi-agency response and there may be professional differences regarding outcome of referrals.</p>
Increased requests for consultation/visits for parent/carers - Tribunal implications. (Support with Tribunal process)	<p>Senstart have amended the consultation form which schools hopefully find it easier to complete.</p> <p>Senstart officers carefully consider what schools they consult with to reduce the consultations to individual schools.</p> <p>Senstart will support In City schools with the tribunal process.</p> <p>In City Schools are requested to manage parental/carers expectations in relation to request to visit schools.</p>
<p>Pay awards- in particular Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Request that High Needs Sub Group could consider an uplift in funding to cover pay awards?</p>	<p>Pay awards are allocated through the HNB as per the High Needs Block funding allocation. This is a set amount in relation to % pay increase set by ESFA, as such uplift beyond the suggested income would not be possible without implications to the wider HNB budget.</p>
Difficulty in recruiting of quality staff – in particular teaching assistants	<p>Training is currently being developed in conjunction with the University to develop SEND relevant qualifications for teaching assistants.</p>
Need for Post 16 move on establishment that would include preparation for adulthood and life skills. This would release capacity /space down the special schools.	<p>Commissioning and School Business and Support to have a discussion with Wolverhampton City College regarding their expansion plans including new builds.</p>

	<p>Preparing for Adulthood and life skills agenda to be part of the discussion.</p> <p>The Culture of Inclusion Programme has a designated workstream to develop opportunities around Preparation for Adulthood and Transition to adulthood.</p>
Transport for Inclusive Nurseries.	As requests for EHCPs are being completed earlier, children requiring transport to inclusive nurseries for their reception year should be able to have this facilitated through their EHCP.
School having difficulty employing signers - cost increasing. Difficult to assess need as youngsters coming into City all the time.	As part of the transformation project, it will be important that the true costings of resource bases, particularly for those who deliver support for children and young people with a sensory impairment is reviewed.
Matrix Banding review.	This is awaiting the outcome of the Government's Green paper regarding SEND and their intention to introduce a National Matrix Banding.
Capacity in resource bases and special schools – capital cost of space expansion.	The offers of capacity expansion in our resource bases and special schools to be part of the Transformation project towards the end ambition of a Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for SEND.