

# City of Wolverhampton Council

## SCHOOLS' FORUM

<b>Date</b>	05 December 2019
<b>Report title</b>	Feedback from High Needs Sub Group
<b>Contact</b>	Sarah Whittington, Chair of High Needs Sub Group

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### Summary

The Schools' Forum High Needs Sub Group Met on 7 November 2019. City of Wolverhampton Council Officers and Penn Hall School presented a range of papers for information and discussion. The full minutes of the meeting are available for Schools' Forum members, however, in summary:

1. Debra Boniface, Finance Manager presented the High Needs Forecast to members and gave an overview of the budget lines and the forecast outturn for each of the funding areas. It was shared that forecasting was to budget on most items following the alterations made to budgets in 2018 - 2019. It was explained that the forecasts are estimated on the awareness of potential spend and not commitments and therefore are subject to change. A discussion on high needs funding priorities is scheduled for the sub group in January.
2. The level and incidence of High Incidence Special Educational Needs Funding at schools was shared with the group and a further paper and discussion about potential alternative methodologies will be shared with the group in January. This is part of the broader review of high needs funding within the current Matrix Review.
3. An update on the progress of the Matrix review was presented to the group. The group responsible for developing the new matrix met on the 5 November 2019 and progress was made on the shape of the new matrix and the descriptors of need that sit behind it. In addition, there was a discussion by the group about the extent of the modelling required to ensure that the revised matrix was deliverable and would not pose a threat to the sustainability of provision.
4. A summary of the 2020-2021 High Needs Place Commissioning Process was presented which outlined the number of high needs places commissioned at establishment level for the 2020-2021 academic year. This paper forms part of the Schools' Forum agenda for the meeting scheduled for 5 December 2019.
5. There was a substantive agenda item relating to residential provision at Penn Hall School which is contained in a separate paper.

### Decision

Members of Schools' Forum are recommended to:

1. Note the feedback from the high Needs Sub Group.
2. Approve the Terms of Reference and Work Programme attached at Appendix 1.