



# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 19 July 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Implementation Grant	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Families	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Linda Sanders - People	
<b>Originating service</b>	All Age Disability and Mental Health	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Kathy Roper	Head of Commissioning
	Tel	01902 550975
	Email	Kathy.roper@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	PLT	20 June 2016
	SEB	28 June 2016

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve the expenditure of £437,000 in 2016/17 to be funded from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Implementation Grant to fund the Implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 in relation to high needs disabled children and young people.

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Children and Families Bill 2013 included proposals to reform provision for children and young people with special educational needs or with disabilities (SEND). Draft clauses regarding SEND provision were published in September 2012, followed in February 2013 by the Children and Families Bill, the draft regulations and the draft Code of Practice. The Children and Families Act became statute in March 2014.
- 1.2 The Department for Education has allocated funds to each local authority as part of the SEND Implementation Grant. The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them. Wolverhampton was allocated a total of £237,000 in 2014/15, £157,000 in 2015/16 and £178,000 in 2016/17.

## **2.0 Current Situation**

- 2.1 In preparation for the Joint Area Review the SEND Partnership Board is currently undertaking an evaluation of local provision and the implementation of the reforms. The allocation of the SEND grant has therefore been prioritised to support key strategic activity and to enhance areas that need to be developed.
- 2.2 The SEND Partnership Board agreed that a key funding priority is the continued financial support of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) team undertaking the conversions from Educational Statements to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), and the support for co-production with young people and carers.
- 2.3 The Partnership Board also recognises the burden being experienced by partners in the delivery of the SEND reforms and is committed to collaborative working to deliver personalised Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. In order to progress this area members of the partnership Board were able to bid for funds from the Implementation Grant. The bids were evaluated and proposed funding allocations as set out below.

## **3.0 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 Wolverhampton Council have been awarded a grant of £178,000 for 2016/17 and along with unallocated grant of £259,000 give £437,000 available for Special Educational Needs reform.
- 3.2 Table 1 below outlines the activities that need to be undertaken to successfully implement the programme in the required timescales.

**Table 1**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Recommended Budget</b>
	<b>2016/17 £000</b>
Continuation of Conversion activity by SEN service	170
Co-production with families through Voice 4 parents	17
Additional case worker time to support the new duties of the Information Advice and Support Service	10
To support increased demand experienced by Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT) for clinical services as part of the conversion program	50
To respond to increased demand for Educational psychology as part of the conversion program	60
Supporting young people's co-production via Changing Young Lives	5
Support to respond to increased demand for Connexions services as part of the conversion process	20
Support to respond to increased demand for City of Wolverhampton College services as part of the conversion process	20
Support for the on-going development of the SEND Partnership Board, e.g. Partnership Events, conferences etc	7
SEND Strategy Implementation	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>

[AS/14062016/S]

[GS/01072016/Q]

#### **4.0 Legal Implications**

4.1 There are legal implications associated with this report as there are statutory responsibilities on the local authority to implement the key elements of the Children and Families Act 2014.

[Legal Code: TS/07072016/M]

#### **5.0 Equalities Implications**

5.1 This report has equalities implications as it relates to disabled children and young people. Although there are national challenges, locally we know that the number of children growing up in the city will be increasing by approximately 1000 children to 64,200 over the next ten years. 4.9% of these children will have some form of disability. Up to 10% of children will have some type of learning difficulty or disability, one in 100 children will be diagnosed with an autistic spectrum condition, of which 50% will also have some degree of learning disability. The SEND Grant is designed to support the Local Authority to implement the SEND reforms and to enable disabled children to have access to mainstream and specialist services to support their development. The policy and the grant process has been subject to equalities analysis.

## **6.0 Environmental Implications**

6.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

## **7.0 Human Resources Implications**

7.1 There are human resource implications associated with this report as the Implementation Grant is being used to increase staffing capacity in the Information Advice and Support Service as it take on its new duties to provide information advice and guidance to disabled children and young people. All relevant human resource processes will be followed to establish and fill the posts.

## **8.0 Corporate Landlord Implications**

8.1 There are no corporate landlord implications associated with this report.

## **9.0 Schedule of Background Papers**

9.1 There are no background papers.