**AGENDA ITEM**

**Title of report: High Needs Support Funding - 2020-21**

**Author of the paper: Kay Goodacre**

**Officer to present the paper to Schools Forum:** Kay Goodacre/John O’Shea

**Details on who has been consulted with on this paper to date: Schools Forum high Needs Work**

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out the proposals on the allocation of the additional funding retained from the Schools Block for High Needs.

Forum is asked to agree the proposal for distribution of funding to Schools with lower levels of notional SEN funding and higher than average numbers of EHCPs and proposals for a peer led fund to support pupils requiring short term interventions that would not be expected to progress to EHCPs.

**Details of recommendations and timescales for decisions:**

Schools Forum is asked to:

1. To Agree distribution of funding for School with lower levels of notional SEN and higher levels of EHCPs
2. Agree proposal for a peer led support fund.

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**1. 2020/21 School Budgets – Notional SEN Funding**

* 1. Schools Budgets have a level of funding designated as notional SEN, that is funding that is not specifically identified or ring fenced to SEN but that has been distributed in the formula using factors that are proxy indicators of additional needs.

* 1. The Notional SEN has been reset this year by reviewing the factors used within the formula and is calculated using the calculation below.
     1. 5% AWPU
     2. 100% FSM6
     3. 100% IDACI Deprivation
     4. 100% EAL
     5. 100% Mobility
     6. 100% Low Prior Attainment
     7. 50% Minimum Funding Guarantee
  2. We have reviewed the notional SEN by individual school against the number of EHCPs at the School (adjusted for Nursery and post 16) and identified Schools with higher than average numbers of EHCPs for their pupil population and lower than average levels of notional SEN per pupil.
  3. If a School has been identified with both characteristics then an allocation of funding will be made to give the equivalent of the average notional SEN for each of the whole number of EHCPs over the average.
  4. Allocations would be made annually in the Summer term to allow School planning and budgeting time.
  5. Appendix 1 attached lists the Schools that would be eligible for funding.

1. **Short Term Intervention Funding.**
   1. A number of pupils are identified each year with short term problems, often after suffering trauma or crisis that would not normally require a long term EHCP but would require a level of support beyond that that would be normally available. Schools may therefore believe an application for an EHCP may be the only way to secure that support.
   2. The recommendation is that a proportion of the funding held for additional high needs is put aside to be distributed on a case by case basis and managed through a peer review group rather than directly by the Local Authority to support these cases. After distribution on the first criteria this would leave a fund of circa £400k. This funding would be able to be distributed extremely quickly and allow Schools to put in immediate support.
2. **Carry Forward/ Transfer of Balances** 
   1. It is recommended the balances bought forward from previous years offset the overspend in the high needs block, and that only the growth fund surplus from the 2020/21 of £0.3m is carried forward against the Schools block and the net underspend of 0.3m in the early years block. This would give a provisional outturn in the high needs block of £11.9m.