

LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM HIGH NEEDS SUB-GROUP			
REPORT TITLE	Project Plan – Schools SEN Collaborative Funding		
KEY DECISION	Yes	Item No. 7 Appendix	C
CLASS	Part 1	Date	26 November 2015

Work stream	C - Schools Collaborative SEN Funding	
How is this service/ workstream funded? Include all funding sources and identify if this service has already been subject to savings requirements	<p>This allocation to school collaboratives is funded from the High Needs Block of the DSG. It was initially agreed by the Forum for 2007/8.</p> <p>In 2015/16 the funding allocation was reduced by £300k (15%) on the recommendation of the schools forum high needs sub group, but a change in the national academy recoupment regulations status of St Matthew Academy led to the school becoming eligible for this funding, thereby reducing the saving to £200k</p>	
Allocated funding from High Needs (HN) Block?	When was this funding agreed with School Forum?	What did School Forum agree to the money being spent on?
		The purpose of the funding is to encourage schools to work collaboratively to deliver services for children and young people whose needs fall below that of an EHC PLAN assessment.
2014 – 2015 HN allocation	Actual HN Spend £2,156,458	IMPACT of HN spend on pupil outcomes Schools Forum considered feedback from schools on the use of collaborative funding where schools were split 50:50 on the merits of collaborative funding and were not able to articulate the impact of this funding stream.
2015 – 2016 HN allocation	Actual HN Spend £1,957,843	IMPACT of HN spend on pupil outcomes
Value for money/ price per pupil assessment?	The funding total for primaries is distributed as follows: 50% on FSM Ever 6, 21% on Prior Attainment, 21% on Casual Admissions and 8% to ensure a minimum per pupil on roll. For secondaries the split is 39% on FSM Ever 6, 39% on Prior Attainment, 14% on casual admissions and 8% to ensure a minimum per pupil on roll. The school level data used is same as is used for the schools' ISB funding and comes from the DfE.	
Draft Recommendations including whether to continue to fund and identification of any possible savings from High Needs Block or other areas	<p>The funding originally was intended to support those pupils who had a need below an EHC plan. Under the new funding regulations the initial support under an EHC plan is deemed to be in the school budget. In financial terms this support is up to £6,000. Consequently, it would seem that the cost of pupil with lower level needs should also be supported from the school budget and not from other funds..</p> <p>In June 15 the Forum considered the use of collaborative funding and asked that the matter be referred to Primary Strategic, now the Leadership Forum. There were mixed views. Some schools valued the funding and felt that it contributed to some good practice. Other collaboratives did not</p>	

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	<p>use the funding in this way but passed it back immediately to schools. The main benefit was seen for the employment of staff in specialist areas that allowed the resource to be shared amongst schools in the collaborative, that individually schools couldn't afford.</p> <p>If the funding was reduced the practice of pooling money could still take place if a collaborative wished.</p> <p>Schools be consulted on reducing or withdrawing this funding</p> <p>It is recommended that a complete withdrawal of this funding is undertaken.</p>
Timescale for implementing any changes	<p>This could be implemented on 1 April 2016 but due to the fact the funding supports a number of directly employed staff it is not proposed to make the reduction until September 2016.</p>
Risks and possible mitigation	
Date: 14 October 2016	Completed by: Alan Docksey