

Schools Forum			
REPORT TITLE	New Woodlands – Funding Places 2017-2018		
KEY DECISION	Yes	Item No.	7
CLASS	Part 1	Date	17 January 2017

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider the recommendations of the High Needs sub group on the future funding of places at New Woodlands in light of the Transition Plan in place to move the school into its legal status as a special school.

2. Recommendation

The Schools Forum

- 2.1. Agree that proposals as set out in paragraph 6 as the new arrangement for funding places at New Woodlands School.
- 2.2 To note that the SEN children on roll at New Woodlands will be banded with the new universal banding system as in line with the other Specials Schools which will be implemented from the 1 April 2017.
- 2.3 The new funding rates for a place at New Woodlands School should be based on the theory that money should follow the pupil as set out below and that schools contribute to the cost of the placement on a pro-rata basis.

Basic Entitlement

- i) Primary - £3,726
- ii) Secondary - £5,125

(Figures based on 2016/2017 entitlement, maybe subject to change for 2017/2018)

Plus Pupil Premium

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| Primary | £935 |
| Secondary | £1,320 |

- 2.4 To agree that the High Needs Sub Group continue to monitor the progress of the Transition Plan for New Woodlands and that an annual report be presented to Schools Forum by autumn 2017.

3. Background – New Woodlands

- 3.1 The historical context is that New Woodlands was awarded the ‘Power to Innovate’ in 2007 to 2013. Under this initiative the school was able

to offer places for children without a statement of SEN and encouraged to support those children who experienced difficulty within a mainstream setting in particular those who presented behavioural difficulties and were at risk of exclusion. It is evident that the provision at New Woodlands has been instrumental in ensuring that primary exclusions be kept to a minimum.

- 3.2 Places at New Woodlands have been funded through the HNB as based on 112 LA commissioned places. In addition to the funding received from the LA New Woodlands also have had a SLA in place which included an annual membership fee and a separate charge for a pupil place if required.

Annual Membership Fee 2016-2017	
Primary	£750
Secondary	£1,500

Due to the pressure on the HNB and Lewisham has taken steps to ensure that there is scrutiny and accountability in respect of the distribution of the funding.

- 3.3 New Woodlands whilst retaining the status as a special schools has operated as a pupil referral unit. In autumn 2015 it was agreed that a review of alternative provision in Lewisham should be undertaken. The Alternative Provision Review revealed that pupils on roll had a very wide range of needs and it was recommended that an audit of the children attending New Woodlands should be undertaken. The audit was conducted on 26th and 27th May 2016.
- 3.4 Since undertaking the audit the LA have worked closely with new Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team and Chair of Governors on proposals to put in place a transition plan to re-establish New Woodlands School as special school.
- 3.5 It was agreed that transitional arrangements be put in place to re-dress the status of New Woodlands School as a special school. In line with the legislation that children in a special school for more than six months should have a statement or EHCP or for those who require an assessment place. Schools have been reassured that this does not mean that children currently on dual roll at New Woodlands will not have a place but that there will be a phased transition plan over the next 2-3 years to ensure minimum disruption to children attending the provision.

- 3.6 The LA is now the gatekeeper for referrals to New Woodlands in line with national and local admissions arrangements. This was implemented in September 2016 to assist the school through the transition and to enable transparency.
- 3.7. The criteria for the specialism of New Woodlands need to be clearly identified based on need and demand in the borough. Information on the need and gaps in provision needs to be strategically mapped out urgently in order to give a clearer steer on the criteria that should be assigned to this special school.

4 Work in progress

The LA has now set up an Advisory Board to work NW on the Transition Plan. The Advisory Board consist of primary and secondary heads and deputies and the NW SLT and is being led by the Consultant Senior Education Advisor. (Membership and Draft TOR is attached).

5 Transition Plan 2016-2017

In September 2016 the total number of children on roll at NW with an EHCP was 11. Currently (February 2017) there are 25 children on roll with an EHCP this increase is due to the dedicated work from the CWCN Service working with NW to ensure that those children who have been in the provision with undiagnosed primary needs and not making progress are prioritised for an EHC assessment. In addition the LA SEN Panel is now able to offer places for children with an EHCP for SEBD or SEMH at NW as suitable provision to meet their needs.

6 New Funding Arrangements

As of April 2017 the new funding arrangement for a place at NW will be as follows:

LA commissioned places 112	
112 x £10,000 base funding	£1,120,000
112 x £ 6,200 top-up funding	£ 694,400
Total	£1,814,400

School will no longer have to pay a membership fee to access a place at the school. Places will continue to be accessed via the LA SEN Panel or FAP.

For children on dual roll New Woodlands will charge schools the AWPU plus any pupil premium. It is proposed that the weekly amounts will be invoiced to the schools based on place led funding which the mainstream school receives to follow the pupil whilst on dual roll at NW. An example of this is set out below.

- £97 per week (KS1/2)
- £129 per week (KS3)

Plus any Pupil Premium received (predicted figures will be made available).

It has been agreed that NW will no longer have an SLA for 2017-2018 as the Head and the SLT have decided to focus on improving the provision within the school by upskilling staff through a targeted training programme which will be delivered across the school.

7. SEND Banding

For those children who have an EHCP they will be banded in line with the revised system. The review of all those with EHCP is currently being undertaken in February and early March ready for implementation as of April 2017. All children on roll receive in 2017-2018 equates to every child being banded at Band E. Any child that is banded above at Band F or G which led to a higher top-up rate.

8. Conclusion

The revised arrangement for funding places at New Woodlands is part of the process of ensuring spend from the HNB is distributed fairly and with transparency. The Transition Plan in place to bring New Woodlands in line with special schools in the borough this is now progressing and provides support and challenge to the school to ensure that the right children are in the appropriate provision and that there is a clear action plan to ensure that New Woodlands is able to offer high quality provision in line with the agreed specialism.

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