

<b>Schools Forum</b>			
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Banding – Resource Base Provision &amp; Mainstream Funding</b>		
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Item No. Appendix</b>	<b>5 A</b>
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>7 December 2017</b>

## 1. Purpose of the Report

## 2. Recommendation

The Forum

- Note the developments on the review on a universal banding system.
- Agree the proposed funding model as outlined in paragraph 3.3 for resource base provisions for 2018-2019 (an additional £251K).
- Agree the proposed funding model as outlined in paragraph 3.4 for all mainstream schools in Lewisham for 2018-2019 (an additional £47K).
- Note the continued pressures on the HNB as outlined in the HNB Forecast Report.

## 3. Review of Banding

- 3.1 In 2016 the Forum agreed that a review of banding should take place to put in place a universal banding system for all Lewisham schools. The review has now been undertaken and completed for all 5 special schools and was implemented in April 2017. Further work has been carried out to look at a range of options in respect of the funding levels for mainstream primary and secondary schools and resource base provisions.
- 3.2 Financial modelling has been undertaken to look at per pupil funding level for children or young people who are attending a resource base provision in Lewisham. Historically, RBPs were funded according to size of unit, educational need and criteria and negotiated with individual schools. As part of the review of banding it was agreed that all children or young people should be banded based on the 'level of need' and not based on the provision. This means a change in the way that RBPs were funded historically to bring all provisions in line with the universal banding system.
- 3.3 A review of all the EHCPs for children in RBPs was carried out, in addition visits to the units were also undertaken to facilitate discussions with Resource Base Leads and see the children or young people within their educational setting. Evidence from the review indicate that almost all the children within a

resource base provision have needs that equate to a Band D. However, as banding is based on individual level of need it is likely that there may be children within the resource base provision who are on a higher level of banding but this will always be determined based on evidence from professionals as part of an assessment. Please see financial modelling for RBPs at Appendix 1.

- 3.4 The work on banding in respect of mainstream schools has also been undertaken however, it has not been possible to visit all the mainstream schools in Lewisham or to review each individual statement/EHCP. However, as the banding levels are very much in line with the current matrix (High/Medium/Low) children or young people have been placed in the banding group that falls within their current range. The key difference with the revised banding is that a fixed rate is applied rather than the variance current used. The figures that are presented in Appendix 2 are based on the current level of funding and moving to a fixed rate per banding level as opposed to the current variance that is used within the low, medium and high range. The table in Appendix 2 shows the variance and how many children are funded at each level.

#### **4. Implications for HNB**

- 4.1 The proposed changes in the financial models provided will have implications for the High Need Block. The financial forecast for the HNB is outlined in the report submitted to this meeting by the Finance Manager.

#### **5. Next Steps**

The current costs shown are in excess of the budget set aside. The Schools Forum are not being asked to increase the budget but the Local Authority will manage the situation.

Claudia Smith

Consultant Senior Education Advisor – Children and Young People

Contact on 0203 049 1475 or by e-mail at [Claudia.smith@Lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Claudia.smith@Lewisham.gov.uk)