Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) Review Update
Executive Director of People

1   Purpose of Report

1.1   The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Schools Forum on the activity on two key areas of development. Firstly, the implementation of recommendations following the review of the boroughs SRP provision. Secondly to provide an update on the implementation of a proposed new banding tool.

2   Recommendation(s)

2.1   To note the development of provision on mainstream sites that will provide suitable places for those children and young people with EHCPs in a local setting.

3   Reasons for Recommendation(S)

3.1   To ensure that School Forum members are kept up to date on developments.

4   Alternative Options Considered

4.1   Other Specialist Provision is being reviewed and explored, however at this point in time, the SRP's and Banding Matrix are a required to provide additional places.

5   Supporting Information

5.1.   Following a review of the SRP offer in Bracknell Forest a report was submitted to school's forum for consideration on the 6th of October.

5.2.   The review set out several areas of improvement to improve the offer to children with send within Bracknell Forest.

5.3.   Review Meadowvale Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) provision – This work is underway; a meeting has been held with the head of Meadowvale school. Further work is required to fully understand the utilisation of speech and language therapist and assistant to ensure full utilisation. Engagement has been undertaken with health colleagues to understand the therapy offer and the details of the service level agreement. Discussion currently taking place with the borough's commissioning service to ensure best value ensuring children are getting their needs met. Further engagement has begun with parents and carers to secure a full perspective.

5.4.   Review of Service Level Agreement (SLA) – this work has been completed and all existing schools hosting SRP's have received a copy of the updated version, awaiting response at the time of writing.

5.5. 50% requirement to access mainstream curriculum has been removed from the updated SLA.

5.6. Doubling of numbers due to 50% occupancy has been removed as a requirement going forward, this area has been addressed.

5.7. Defining level of need of child accessing SRP – this area of improvement will be addressed with the implementation of the new banding tool. The new banding tool describes level of provision based on need, defining mainstream, SRP and special school. We are working to implement this tool for September 2023. An initial engagement event has been held and feedback collated.

5.8. Individual schools SRP offer – an initial desktop exercise has been undertaken to capture individual schools SRP offer. This work is ongoing, a standardised pro forma has been developed to ensure a consistency of information across all SRP's.

5.9. Local offer information – this is reliant on the work detailed in previous action point.

5.10. Clearly define admission route – The updated SLA clearly defines admissions route through the borough's Decision-Making Group (DMG). The admissions route will be clearly defined in each school's information document and will be available on the local offer to support parental and school staff information.

5.11. Development of secondary SRP's – initial e mail has been sent to all secondary heads to secure strong expressions of interest. Further work to be undertaken to develop spec working in partnership with parents and carers, along with SEND specialist across the borough. Early-stage site tours are being planned for those secondary schools that have expressed an interest.

5.12. Initial discussions are underway to explore an increased Educational Psychologist (EP) offer. However, it must be noted that the EP service is currently under significant pressure due to staff departure and a high volume of statutory work that is a priority. Recruitment of EP's is recognised as a national challenge.

5.13. Currently all processes are under review with the SEND service, Phase transfer process is being plotted, this will be followed be an improvement cycle, this will ensure that the phase transfer process for SRP's are factored into the improvement cycle of work.

5.14. Initial discussion has taken place internally regarding the development of nursery provision to replace the loss of the Rainbow SRP. This responsibility has now been picked up by the Head of Early Years.

5.15. Ensuring that staff have the right level of skill is critical. Training needs across all the borough's SRP's are being collected and collated. Once all training requirements have been collated a training programme will be developed to support the embedding of skills across the SRP sector.

5.16. Finance – some localised training and discussion has been undertaken. The result of the banding moderation work will drive the next phase of support around finances for those schools hosting SRP's. The supporting document suite relating to the new banding tool roll out will clearly define processes and embed a consistent approach to allocation of funds.

Banding tool update

5.17.   A banding tool has been decided on by the high needs working group. The tool is based on the model utilised by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

5.18.   An event was held on the 18th of November attended by heads and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (Senco's) from across Bracknell Forest. The focus of this event is to gain an understanding of the potential levels of real children's level of needs identified through the new banding tool. It was also an opportunity to gain valuable feedback on the pros and cons of the proposed banding tool (responses detailed in background paper section).

5.19.   This piece of work will provide a substantial base line to support effective modelling to understand the funding levels of children and the impact on the borough's high needs block as we move to the new banding tool.

5.20.   A further update will be provided to school's forum around the implications and learning from the moderation exercise.

5.21.   A further event is to be planned in January 2023 to continue to develop the tool and to consider the process that will underpin the banding tool.

5.22.   A further programme of roll out will need to be developed to support the transition onto the new system, supported by a suite of process documents.

6   Consultation and Other Considerations

7   <u>Legal Advice</u>

         None

8   <u>Financial Advice</u>

         No significant financial implications arise from the update report. Any proposed changes will need to be considered as part of the annual budget setting process.

9   <u>Other Consultation Responses</u>

None

10   <u>Equalities Impact Assessment</u>

11   <u>Background Papers</u>

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<u>Contact for further information</u>
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