BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: High Needs Block

DATE: 15th January 2014

RECIPIENT: Schools Forum

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. This paper outlines the proposals for the High Needs Block including funding for Special schools, units in maintained schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) from April 2014.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

- 2. The proposed High Needs Block is shown in Appendix 1.
- 3. High Needs pupils in maintained schools

From April 2014, the DfE has imposed a mandatory threshold of £6,000 of additional support per High Needs pupil that schools are required to fund from their formula budget. This is in line with the 2013/14 threshold implemented in Southampton.

4. The Pupils with Statements budget will reimburse schools for both low and high incidence pupils where additional educational costs exceed £6,000. It is assumed that 12 hours of LSA time per week equate to the £6,000 cost:

e.g. 12 hours x 45.62 weeks x £10.98* = £6,011

Schools will be reimbursed for support of more than 12 hours per week, term time only at a rate of £10.98 per hour.

5. Special Schools, Special Free Schools and Special Units

The local authority has identified, based on current profile, the number of places required at the five Special schools, four Special units and one Free school in the 2014/15 financial year.

School	Places April 2014	Places Sept 2014
Springwell School	96	96
Great Oaks School	145	162
The Cedar School	70	70
The Polygon School	50	50
Vermont School	28	28
Rosewood School	26	26
Tanners Brook Primary School	14	14
Redbridge Community School	7	7
Bitterne Park School	5	5
Total	441	458

^{* £10.98} equates to a Grade 6 LSA paid on scale point 19

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- 6. It is planned to expand Great Oaks special school by 17 places in September 2014 at a cost of £182,000 for the part year.
- 7. Special schools, Special Free Schools and maintained schools with a special unit are funded on the basis of a flat £10,000 per place plus a per pupil top-up. Schools only receive top-up funding for the actual numbers of pupils in their school.
- 8. Because Special schools and units are partially funded on the basis of pupil numbers, it is proposed to operate a vacancy factor which would increase a school's top-up funding to compensate for low numbers in the autumn term. This allows some provision for empty places available for placing pupils during the financial year.
- 9. While there is not a Minimum Funding Guarantee for Special school and units, there is a requirement that the top-up element of the funding is set at such a level that, if all the places were filled and the pupils came from the maintaining authority, the school's budget would reduce by no more than 1.5%.

10. Pupil Referral Unit - Compass School

The PRU will be funded for 160 places. Each place will attract a base level of funding of £8,000 from the High Needs Block. Top-up funding per pupil will be paid by the commissioner of the place (either the local authority or a school) on the basis of three place types – Band 1, 2 and 3.

11. <u>High Needs Pressures</u>

There are a number of pressures and savings in the High Needs block in 2014/15 as summarised in the table below:

	Pressure/ (saving) £
Special Schools (including expansion of Great Oaks)	£229,000
High needs pupils in FE colleges	£15,800
High needs pupils in Early Years settings	£64,900
High needs pupils in other local authority provision	£111,900
Pupils with Statements	(£393,800)
Pre 16 Out of City	£316,600
Post 16 Out of City	£305,300
Medical unit delegated budget	£45,300
Inflation on High Needs Block	(£400,600)
Total pressure to be funded from the Early Years Block	£294,400

12. We have received about £400,600 of growth funding in the DSG High Needs block. A transfer of £294,400 will be made from the Early Years Block to fund the pressures.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

Appendix 1 Estimated High Needs Block 2014/15

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Appendix 1

Estimated High Needs Block 2014/15

DfE 2014/15 High Needs Block	£17,623,000
Transfer from Early Years Block	£894,400
Total High Needs Block	£18,517,400
Funding for maintained providers	£11,696,100
Funding for Academies, Free Schools and Colleges	£1,891,700
Funding for independent providers	£1,993,100
Other Alternative Provision	£168,800
SEN support services	£828,400
Support for inclusion	£918,200
Hospital education services	£531,000
Overheads	£490,100
TOTAL	£18,517,400