

Notes of Peterborough Schools Forum held on 27th February 2024

Present: Mark Woods (Chair), Chris Baird, Angela Wellings, Jonathan Lewis, Jude Macdonald, Cllr Ray Bisby, Dr Helen Price, Ian Graham-Wells, Andy Lyons, Kirsten Jewitt, Zoe Lattimer, Alan Sadler, Debbie Hayes, John Gilligan, Howard Nelson, Mohammed Younis, Mrs R Mercuri-Butcher, Mrs Austin, Scott Hudson

	Action
<p>Next steps/actions from previous meeting: Rachel D – all actions have been completed.</p> <p>Regarding the funding for organising the Schools Forum, Chris B told the group that any money not spent goes back into the DSG.</p>	
<p>High Needs Block 24-25</p> <p>Discussion was held about how SEND funding was no longer keeping pace with demand. All DSG reserves will be used by end of 24/25 if forecasts become reality: a new strategy is required.</p> <p>The forum was told the total places in Hubs will increase from Sept 24, with three new hubs being created.</p> <p>A further pressure has been the increase in costs associated with supporting children with medical needs.</p> <p>The SEND strategy will be created collaboratively through 2024 – working will coincide with James Bird is coming on board in April, as new SEND lead. It will take most of this year to complete a strategy which sets out a five-year plan. The LA is exploring whether a subgroup with Headteachers attending would be the best way of developing this. The increase of children with SEN and the rising costs were discussed as well as recruitment issues.</p>	<p>CB</p>

<p>Delivering Better Value was also discussed. It was suggested that the DfE could be approached to request access to the free school's programme? Chris B to take forward.</p>	
<p>SEND Development – sub group update</p> <p>Sub group has met several times, with good representation across schools and phases. Proposal has been developed, with a focus on primary given the analysis done on children’s needs and what could be done recognising that a wider strategic response is also required. The sub group felt it would be better to wait to finalise with James Bird, new Head of SEND and Inclusion from April 2024.</p> <p>There is further work to be done on the financial analysis, entry criteria, overlaps and funding. This will form part of the strategic action plan as part of the new Strategy.</p>	
<p>AOB: Apologies from Rachel Davies, Matthew Van Lier Pam Setterfield, Stuart (OWN Trust)</p>	