



Agenda Item:

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Meeting
Date of meeting:	8 February 2016
Subject:	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Implementation Grant (New Burdens) 2016-17 allocation
Report from:	Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services
Report by:	Julia Katherine, Inclusion Commissioning Manager
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to allocate the Special Educational Needs Implementation Grant for 2016-17.
- 1.2 This funding will be used to continue to fund the additional staff who have been recruited to carry out the transfer of existing statements and learning disability assessments to education health and care plans, as specified in the new special educational needs and disabilities legislation.
- 1.3 The funding allocated to Portsmouth for 2016-17 is £131,559. This has been allocated as an un-ring fenced grant and so Cabinet approval is required in order to allocate this grant to the education directorate to support continued implementation of the SEND reforms.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet Members are recommended to:
 - 2.1.1 Approve the full allocation of the Special Educational Needs Implementation Grant of £131,559 in 2016-17
 - 2.1.2 Approve the proposals for utilising the grant to continue to fund the staff who have been employed on a fixed term basis to enable successful transfer of existing statements and learning disability assessments to education health and care plans.

3 Background

- 3.1 New legal duties came into force in September 2014, through the Children and Families Act, to reform the way support is provided for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The aim of the SEND Reforms is to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND and to enable them to achieve their potential and live happy and fulfilled lives.
- 3.2 The Act places the views, wishes and aspirations of children, parents and young people at the heart of the system and requires a culture change in the ways in which professionals work with families and with each other.
- 3.3 Portsmouth has made a good start in implementing the SEND Reforms. Transitional arrangements are in place for gradually transferring SEN statements and learning disability assessments to education, health and care plans by April 2018.
- 3.4 In Portsmouth this will mean approximately 1,000 education health and care needs assessments (over a 20 week period each) to transfer existing statements and learning disability assessments, plus an additional estimated 100 new assessments per year over a period of 20 weeks each.
- 3.5 Portsmouth City Council has allocated the funding to employ additional staff on fixed term contracts within the SEND team to work with families, schools, colleges and early years settings to facilitate person centred annual reviews and write the new education health and care plans.
- 3.6 In January 2016, the government announced funding allocations for 2016-17. Portsmouth City Council has been allocated £131,559. It is proposed to use this additional funding to extend to March 2017 the fixed term contracts of the staff who have been taken on to deliver the transfers of statements to education health and care plans, as set out below. The remainder of the funding will be used to continue the engagement work with young people, parent/carers and schools to support the implementation of the reforms.

3.7 Staffing costs 2016-17

Posts	Band	Time period	FTE	Total Cost
SEND Advisers	8	April 2016 to Mar 2017	3.0	£33,785 x 3 = 101,355
SEND Case Workers	5	April 2016 to Mar 2017	1.0	£ 25,225
Total				£ 126,580

- 3.8 Additional costs:** any remaining grant funding (approximately £4,979) will be used to enable the continuation of young people, parent/carer and school engagement to support the implementation of the reforms.

4 Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The DfE is continuing to monitor closely the way that local authorities are using the grant funding allocated to ensure full compliance with the new legislation. Implementation will be subject to inspection by Ofsted and CQC from 2016 onwards.
- 4.2 The work that has taken place in Portsmouth to implement the SEND Reforms has been praised by the Department for Education (DfE), and Children's Minister, Edward Timpson, in recognition of the progress made in implementation of the reforms.

5 Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1 A preliminary EIA was completed in 2014 for the Information, Advice & Support for Parents, Carers & Young People Service, as part of the implementation of the SEND reforms outlined in the Children and Families Act 2014. It was found that the reforms do not impact negatively on any of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 so a full EIA was not required.
- 5.2 An EIA is not required for this report as this also relates to the SEND reforms. Furthermore, the recommendations will not negatively impact on any of the equality strands as this is to allocate the SEND funds to ensure the continuation of funding for additional staff who have been recruited to carry out the 'conversion' statutory assessments, as specified in the new special educational needs and disabilities legislation.

6 Legal comments

- 6.1 The report comments and aims are consistent with implementing the statutory changes to the provision of SEND the benefit being that in dealing with the changes in the way suggested above the Authority is exposed to less risk associated with challenge and is acting consistently with promoting the best outcomes from those persons requiring SEND input.

7 Finance comments

- 7.1 The purpose of the SEND Reform grant is to support local authorities with the additional costs associated with the implementation of the SEND reforms, however it is not ring fenced. The grant allocation to Portsmouth for 2016-17 amounts to £131,559 and forms part of a two year allocation to Local Authorities by the Department for Education.

7.2 Due to the time limited nature of the grant and the uncertainty of the 2017-18 allocation, the additional posts have been recruited on fixed term one-year contracts.

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Signed by: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services

Appendices:

Grant allocation 2016-17

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-reform-funding-for-local-authorities-2016-to-2017>

Background list of documents:

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: