

Report to: Cabinet

Subject: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
Implementation Grant 2018-19

Date of meeting: 16th March 2018

Report from: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Report by: Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to allocate the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Reforms grant for 2018-19 plus the additional Preparation for Employment grant.
- 1.2 The SEND Reforms grant funding allocated to Portsmouth for 2018-19 is £118,648. This is not ring fenced and therefore Cabinet approval is required in order to allocate this grant to the Education portfolio to support the continued implementation of the SEND reforms.
- 1.3 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 (Children and Families Act 2014), and to continue to embed the SEND reforms in order to improve services for children and young people with SEND and their families.
- 1.4 Additional funding has been allocated to enable all local authorities to establish local supported internship forums and train more job coaches. Portsmouth has been allocated £46,888 for this purpose. It is planned to use this to fund a one-year fixed term post to work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities to establish the forum, to provide training for job coaches and to support colleges to increase the numbers of high quality supported internships

2. Recommendation

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the allocation of the:

- **SEND reforms grant of £118,648 in 2018-19 to the Education portfolio;**
- **Preparation for Employment grant in 2018-19 to the Education portfolio.**

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 these 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 good progress in implementing the SEND Reforms. Transitional arrangements are in place for completing the transfer of the majority of SEN statements and learning disability assessments to education, health and care plans by April 2018.
- 3.4 In Portsmouth there are currently 1211 children and young people with education health and care plans, with an additional 167 statements still to be transferred. In addition to the transfer of existing statements, in 2017 there were a further 217 new statutory education health and care needs assessments. All transfers and new assessments are completed over a 20 week statutory time period.
- 3.5 The council has utilised the allocated 2017/18 funding to employ additional staff on fixed term contracts within the SEND team to work with families, schools, colleges and early years settings to co-ordinate these statutory, multi-agency assessments and write the new education health and care plans.
- 3.6 In November 2017, the government announced that there would be SEND reforms grant funding allocated to all local authorities in 2018-19, in recognition of the need to:
- complete the transfers of all statement to education health and care plans,
 - further embed all aspects of the reforms in partnership with schools, colleges and early years settings,
 - continue to improve the quality of education health and care plans,

- continue to improve the experience of the needs assessment process for families.
- 3.7 It is proposed to use this funding to extend to March 2019 the fixed term contracts of the staff who have been taken on to deliver the transfers of statements to education health and care plans, including attending co-production meetings with families and person-centred annual reviews. The total cost of 2x Band 8 and 1x Band 6 posts is £106,988.
- 3.8 Should the employment costs not be fully required due to staff turnover, appointment delays, etc. then this would be redirected to support the ongoing workforce development to further embed the reforms across education, health and care.
- 3.9 Additional grant funding of £46,888 has been allocated in 2018-19 to enable the establishment of a supported internship forum and to train more job coaches. It is proposed that this amount is used to establish a one-year fixed term post to provide support for colleges across the travel to learn area to increase the number of supported internships and to provide training for job coaches, working closely with neighbouring local authorities to improve the pathways in to employment for young people with SEND.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The work that has taken place in Portsmouth to implement the SEND Reforms has been effective so far, but the reforms represent the biggest change to practice in this area of work for the past 30 years and further work is required to embed the new statutory duties and whole scale system change set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 as business as usual.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Implementation is subject to a new local area SEND inspection by Ofsted and CQC.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1 An EIA is not required for this report as the SEND reforms and recommendations will not negatively impact on any of the equality strands.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The new statutory duties of local authorities and schools in relation to the support of children and young people with SEND, introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014 and currently in the process of implementation, are referred to in section 3 of the report.

6.2 The two elements of central government grant funding identified in the recommendations are provided under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and are to be expended for the purposes described in the respective grant determinations.

7. Director of 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 2018-19 amounts to £118,648 following earlier instalments.

7.2 Due to the time limited nature of the grant, and the previous uncertainty over continuation into 2018-19, additional posts had been recruited to on a fixed term basis. This allocation would allow those posts to be extended.

7.3 Additional funding, also not ring fenced, has been provided to develop and improve pathways to employment for young people with SEND.

7.4 The spending proposals identified within this report cannot be accommodated without the allocation of the grant to these activities

Signed by: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

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: