

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**9<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Directorate of Children, Learning and Skills**

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**High Needs/SEND Review Update 2020/21**

**1) PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- i) To provide forum with an update on DSG Management Plan (formerly Recovery Plan)

**2) RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i) That forum notes the work underway and the reporting timetable.

**3) DSG Management Plan (formerly Recovery Plan)**

a) Governance

The development of the DSG Management Plan has been presented at regular monthly High Needs Working Group meetings.

b) Financial Planning

Preparation work is ongoing by the Local Authority to ensure accurate financial reporting for 2020-21 is reflected within the DSG Management Plan. Once this is completed, the Management Plan Version 1 will be presented to Schools Forum in January 2021, to support HNB budget proposals for 2021-22.

c) Current Activities

The following areas of work are currently underway, that will be fed into the DSG Management Plan once each is completed:

- i) *Resource Base Review* – a resource base review was initiated in October, focussed on ensuring the bases match current SEND pressures within Slough, and are accurately aligned to meet forecasted future demand. All resource bases are being met by the review team, and are expected to be concluded before the end of the current term. Resource base site visits have been impacted by covid-secure requirements at each base, and therefore are expected to be concluded within January 2021. Final reports for the review should be expected following site visit completion.
- ii) *Internal Financial Reporting* - review of current internal financial reporting mechanisms are being tested for accuracy of management information. New reporting and monitoring operations are being designed in order to ensure efficient and accurate reporting procedures are followed from 2021-22 onward.

- iii) *SEND Panel Review* – a review into the operation and governance of the Authority’s SEND Panel is underway. The review shall ensure that robust decision making procedures are in place and equally and consistently applied to all cases considered by the panel. The review is also including the review of the current Banding Matrix used to determine EHCP funding, and how the matrix is applied during the panel process.
  
- iv) *Education Initiatives* – work is underway to identify opportunities for new initiatives that can be implemented to improve outcomes of pupils whilst also expecting a reduction in identified financial pressures on the HNB.

Mark McCurrie  
SEN Strategic Advisor  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
[Mark.mccurrie@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.mccurrie@slough.gov.uk)