

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 17 September 2014	Agenda Item	11
Report Title	High Needs Block 2014-15: Hawkswood Therapeutic PRU Provision		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Information and Decision		
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Appendices	None		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Schools Forum will remember that they were informed of potential proposals for use of the underspend in the High Needs Block of funding at their meeting in January 2014. One of the proposals was to develop additional SEN provision within the Borough for children and young people with very high level emotional and behavioural needs which are low incidence, who are currently placed in high cost provision at some distance from their home address.
- 1.2 This report sets out the rationale for and approach to the development of Additional Resourced Provision (ARP) for young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) and concomitant complex emotional and mental health needs at the Hawkswood PRU (Pupil Referral Unit).
- 1.3 The report proposes a one year project working towards a solution that is consistent with the policies of the Council and partners to develop provision as close as possible to the homes of Waltham Forest children and young people. It has the following specific aim:
- to improve access, entitlement, quality of provision and value for money of services for a specific group of children and young people comprising:
 - ✓ CAMHS tier 2/3 young people with SEN;
 - ✓ those missing from education with tier 2- 3 assessed mental health needs and an SEN;
 - ✓ those at high risk of care placement with highly unstable background, tier 2- 3 mental Health needs and a SEN;
 - ✓ and those pupils unable to attend school for significant emotionally based reasons with a SEN.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Schools Forum are asked to approve the use of funding from the High Needs Block underspend to provide the the annual revenue costs of a 6 place therapeutic PRU provision within the Hawkswood group of schools initially for one year.
- 2.2 The total maximum cost for one full year would be £114,000 for 6 places at £19,000 per place. The actual costs would be determined by the number of referrals within the year and the pro rata costs that would result from this.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Patterns of referral over the last academic year (2013-14) to Hawkswood indicate that the Council has additional requirement for provision for young people who have SEN and significant complex emotional needs. These referrals have emerged via the Fair Access Panel (FAP) process where children and young people with statements for emotional and behavioural needs have been considered. There were 5 such cases considered during the year. Each of the cases had statements naming mainstream secondary school provision as the appropriate provision. However in each case the placement had become vulnerable due to extreme behavioural and emotional situations within school.
- 3.2 The discussions at FAP identified that there are few options for alternative placement of these children and young people in local provision. Decisions at FAP for these cases are therefore severely constrained and the needs of the children are placed at risk whilst the provision named in the statement is re-considered.
- 3.3 Because of this situation the children and young people have been allocated short term placements at the Hawkswood group whilst the SEN team identified alternative appropriate long term provision. Whilst this pattern of decision making is not ideal it has resulted in:
 - ✓ Hawkswood staff developing their understanding of the needs of these children and young people
 - ✓ The SEN team confirming the need for more long term local provision for children and young people. The only options at present are generally outside the Borough boundary and in the independent sector increasing the cost to the High Needs Block.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed to develop a project for a new provision at Hawkswood PRU within the secondary age range **for an initial period of one year** to pilot the effective meeting of the needs of these pupils. Hawkswood is well placed to be able to address that provision need and is prepared to expand its operations to include young people referred by the SEN team for placement on a bespoke basis capped at one year. Personalised programmes will be based on educational and social emotional evaluation of need.
- 4.2 The placements will be commissioned by the SEN team and will be described as an Additionally Resourced (ARP) part of the PRU provision. Learners will be part of the PRU roll. Provision may continue through Year 12 where appropriate depending on assessment of need and available funding.

- 4.3 The Hawkswood group of schools work together with a range of agencies e.g, Child and Adolescent Mental health Services (CAMHS), Social Services, Educational Psychology Services (EPS), Brookside Hospital and with parents. This is aimed at providing the best bespoke personalised support and intervention for pupils thus securing the best educational and emotional outcomes for each child.
- 4.4 The provision will report to the PRU management committee and the committee will liaise closely over reviewing the effectiveness of the provision. Referrals and placements on a case by case basis and criteria for referral will be reviewed in light of anticipated changes as a result of SEN reform.
- 4.5 The majority of pupils at Hawkswood exhibit a lack of stability in their mental states that has resulted in difficulties in on-going progression, appropriate assessment and overall capacity to perform in examinations alongside inherent emotional barriers.
- 4.6 To address such barriers within a teaching and learning environment, Hawkswood provides a therapeutic environment in which pupils have access to services on site such as Educational Psychologists (EPs) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) services, where pupils are rigorously monitored and supported. The curriculum is carefully planned to provide access to activities that develop social and emotional skills, promote positive mental health and provide an outlet for pupils to verbalise emotions that may otherwise be channelled negatively. PSHE programmes are planned with a focus on key mental health issues. One to one support is provided for all pupils in need of support and all groups have a weekly Personal Development Group session.
- 4.7 This would be a collaborative approach designed to meet the educational, therapeutic and care needs of some of our most complex and hard to reach young people. The model is based on the premise that currently the young people in the identified referral group are often encountered by all 3 agencies and that collaboration in the best interests of the young person is often unreliable or inconsistent.
- 4.6 The focus for all activity will be to provide high quality personalised support and intervention plans to the referral group. Learning at Hawkswood is provided via a blend of online live tuition and face to face teaching. This allows for:
 - ✓ Using information technologies to expand access and improve quality of learning
 - ✓ Increasing productivity by broadening access to teachers
 - ✓ Increasing student-teacher ratios while achieving learning outcomes equal to those of traditional classroom instruction
 - ✓ Engaging pupils in active learning
 - ✓ Individualising, differentiating and personalising learning
 - ✓ Maximising teacher and student time

4.7 **Project Objectives**

The project will have the following objectives:

- **Assessment and Evaluation:** multi agency input providing high quality information and analysis to drive a personalised plan. Key elements will include: initial assessment and induction to baseline, multi-agency meetings at two week (initial) and monthly intervals for on-going support and progression, liaison with external CAMHS, Social Services, Health and EPS as advised; specific

educational interventions as necessary; parent support interventions; transition and progression pathways. Referrals on a case by case basis based on evaluation and consultation.

- **Support and Intervention:** bespoke education, therapeutic and care programmes, personalised to meet individual needs, offered to young people and their families; pastoral programme of mental health support and personal development for pupils; 1:1 one CAMHs support on site; access to broader experiences to develop life skills as appropriate
- **Transition and Transfer:** support and facilitation on entry to the provision and on exit, into EET for all young people; access to careers advice; support with further education and employment applications and interviews; integration support programme. Young people on roll at the end of Year 11 who have been unable to access GCSEs may be offered the opportunity continue through Year 12 where appropriate depending on assessment of need and available funding.
- **Commissioning:** the main elements of education provision and other aspects of programmes as required; Hawkswood already commissions EPS and CAMHS.
- **Family work:** no child in isolation, holistic support and challenge; parent support interventions involving external agencies where appropriate.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 This proposal is being made on a spend to save basis. Current annual costs for individual placements for children and young people with these needs amount to an average of £40,000 per place. For 6 placements this would incur annual costs of £240,000 compared with the proposed cost for this project of £114,000.

5.2 Risks

There are risks to this project each of which will be evaluated in the ongoing review of the project through the PRU Management Committee. The risks and assessment of risk is outlined below:

<p>What is the risk?</p>	<p>Lack of engagement of the child with education and intervention</p> <p>Deterioration in the child's mental health issues</p> <p>Lack of access to mental health professionals and educational psychologists for specialist support and guidance</p> <p>Inappropriate referrals</p> <p>Failure to identify an appropriate therapeutic environment</p>
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<p>Factors that mitigate the risk</p> <p>What factors reduce the chances of this happening? What supports the school / service in managing the risk?</p>	<p>Providing a clear internal structure and organisation based on thorough understanding of pupil's need</p> <p>Engaging intensive inter-agency working</p> <p>Developing focused individualised interventions</p> <p>Developing access to all levels of support at CAMHs</p> <p>Carrying out appropriate and detailed risk assessments</p> <p>Ensuring that referrals are appropriate within the context of provision</p> <p>Development of an appropriate environment to mitigate anxiety and risk (Hawkswood)</p> <p>Developing close contact and liaison with parents/carers</p>
<p>Long term strategy</p> <p>What is or should be in place to support the young person and reduce <i>risk</i>?</p>	<p>Supporting the post of dedicated Teacher/Manager with overall responsibility for care of pupils referred-planning, monitoring and evaluating effectiveness</p> <p>Agreeing with CAMHs and EPS for appropriate level of support</p> <p>Access to Psychiatric nurse one or two mornings per week</p>

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 There is a need to pilot the development of provision for this group of high need children and young people and Schools Forum is requested to approve the use of HNB funding for this one year pilot.