

23 May 2016**Agenda Item: 10**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REFORM GRANT 2016/17

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval of proposed monitoring and governance arrangements for the 2016/17 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms 'New Burdens' Grant.
2. The report also seeks approval for initial spend against the Grant, including the proposed establishment of a temporary 1 fte (full-time equivalent) Project Manager post at Band D.

Information and Advice

3. The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced new duties on local authorities to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEN or who are disabled.
4. Nottinghamshire was a Pathfinder authority for these reforms and between 2014 and 2016 received two grants totaling £1.9 million pounds to support implementation and fund the cost of new burdens arising from the legislation. The grants were allocated against 12 implementation priorities and used to fund a SEND Reforms Project Lead. Governance of the grant was provided through the Implementation Steering Group, comprising representatives from Education, Health and Social Care.
5. In February 2016, the Department for Education (DfE) announced a further grant would be made available to local authorities to enable them to continue to meet the cost of implementing the reforms. Nottinghamshire's allocation for 2016/17 is £489,821. In addition to this, there is a £153,960 underspend on the 2015/2016 grant which will be rolled over into 2016/2017, making the total amount available for this financial year £643,761. The purpose of this grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them. Local authorities can spend this one-off grant to recognise the programmes of change underway in the areas of SEN. They may, however, choose how to spend the money in order to best meet local need.
6. It is proposed to spend the 2016/17 grant in three main areas:

SEND Reform Implementation Priorities

This work will further develop areas of Pathfinder priorities including development of IT and Multimedia Advocacy, transfer of Statements of SEN and Learning Disability

Assessments (LDAs), participation of parents, carers and young people, SEND Local Offer, and establishing an impartial information and advice service.

Integration of Children's Disability Service and Special Educational Needs and Disability

In March 2016, Committee approved the integration of the Children's Disability Service (CDS) and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) staffing structures. The integration of these services formed part of the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People with Disabilities Project and aimed to improve the experience for children, young people and their families, as well as reduce duplication, share resources and identify efficiencies across Social Care, Education and Community Health Services. It is proposed to use the grant to support transition arrangements into the new integrated service including workforce development, communication and publicity and case transition work.

Quality Assurance and Preparation for Inspection

The DfE has asked Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to inspect implementation of the SEND reforms. Inspections will commence in May 2016 and will assess how effectively the SEND reforms have been implemented since September 2014, across all the organisations that are engaged in providing support and provision for children and young people with SEND for a local area. All 152 local authority areas will be inspected on a five year cycle, which equates to around 30 inspections per year. The inspections will include a field work element during which the inspection team will track children and young people from across the 0 – 25 years age range in a variety of settings and across a range of provision. It is proposed to use the grant to support the local area's preparation for inspection, including the coordination and completion of a self-evaluation, by establishing a temporary FTE Project Manager post at Band D (SCP 42-47).

Governance of the Grant

7. It is proposed that the Children's and Young Peoples Committee has an overview of the grant and supports decision making about its use in order to ensure an appropriate level of governance. Committee will be provided with quarterly updates to support this responsibility.

Other Options Considered

8. Consideration was given to using the Inspection Readiness Group meetings for governance of the grant; this was subsequently discounted due to a possible conflict of interest.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. To provide an appropriate level of governance and decision making in respect of spend against the 2016/17 SEND Reform Grant.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. The grant should be viewed as one-off temporary funding, with no guarantee of additional funding in 2017/18. Financial information is contained in **Appendix 1**.
12. This report proposes to spend £414,244 against the total grant, leaving £229,537 in reserve to respond to any performance issues identified within the self-evaluation and any challenges within the new service. Further recommendations about the use of this money will be presented to Committee as part of the quarterly updates detailed above.

Human Resources Implications

13. The post of temporary Project Manager will be recruited to in line with NCC recruitment policy and requirements.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

14. The grant will provide staff within the Integrated Disability Service with tailored training alongside their current workforce development offer in order to ensure that they are fully able to support children and young people and identify any safeguarding needs.

Implications for Service Users

15. Children, young people and families will receive support and services that meet the requirements of the SEND Reforms and that are joined up and holistic.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the proposed monitoring and governance arrangements for the 2016/17 Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms 'New Burdens' Grant
- 2) approves the initial spend against the Grant, including the proposed establishment of a temporary 1 fte (full-time equivalent) Project Manager post at Band D.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jill Norman
Temporary Group Manager, Integrated Children's Disability Service

T: 0115 9932566
E: Jill.norman@nottsgov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 04/05/16)

16. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SS 11/05/16)

17. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraphs 11 and 12 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Integration of Children's Disability Service (CDS) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) staffing structures – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 21 March 2016

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0818