SCHOOLS’ FORUM

**9.4**

Date: November 2016

Heading: Early Years SEND Report

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| **Forum asked to be informed/decision** | To note how Schools’ Forum funding is being spent supporting children with complex and high level special educational needs transitioning to school (Transition Support Funding – TSF).  To propose an increase in budget of **£105,000** from 2017-2018 in order to deliver a better system for schools & CYP. This will mean a total budget of £225,000 for TSF. |
| **Time Needed** | **10 minutes** |

1. **Transition Support Funding – Background**

Transition Support Funding (TSF) was introduced in 2011. This funding mechanism was originally designed to support children with complex and high-level special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who were likely to meet the threshold for a statutory assessment, but in their pre-school year might not present with the level of evidence required for a statutory plan to be in place by the time they started school. TSF was also developed as part of a preventative SEN strategy, providing support at a crucial transition time in order to reduce the likelihood of a statutory plan being required at a later date. Evidence collected over the last 5 years has shown that around 50% of TSF funded children did not require a statutory plan (Statement or EHC plan) once in school.

1. **The need for extra funding and changes**

The LA is proposing to make enhanced changes to TSF for 2017. The need for change results from a significant increase in the numbers of children with complex and high level SEND identified in the early years. The corresponding year-on-year increase in TSF requests has informed the development of this new model. The key changes are as follows (if agreed):

1. Early years settings and parents/carers will continue to be able to make EHC needs assessment requests for young children, having due regard to Local Authority thresholds and in accordance with the 2014 Code of Practice. There is no longer a requirement for such requests to take place once a child is attending school.
2. Transition Support Funding will continue over the full reception year with an extra £1,830 allocated per child, a total of **£4,830** (up from £3,000). Previously, TSF ended in term 4 which meant schools had to apply for an EHC needs assessment by October/November or there may have been a gap in funding between terms 5 and 6.
3. Transition Support Funding will continue as a preventative funding strategy for children in mainstream schools with complex and high-levels of SEND, who are not in receipt of an EHC plan. For schools, TSF will continue as a ‘top-up’ to delegated funding. The maximum sum payable to a school for a child in receipt of TSF will be £4,830. This is based on £9.50 per hour and a child attending for 30 hours per week over 38 weeks of the school year (£10,830). Delegated funding of £6,000 is then deducted from this amount. Setting the funding at this level means that no child with TSF can receive more than a child with an EHC plan with the highest level of matrix funding in place.
4. Children in their pre-school year who already receive early years inclusion support funding at the highest level (tier 3) will continue to automatically receive TSF, subject to review information being submitted to the Early Years SEND and Inclusion Panel (SENDIP). Children in receipt of tier 1 and 2 inclusion support funding will not receive TSF in schools, as their needs should be met through delegated funding arrangements. Early Years Settings will, however, receive funds to support transition planning for each child, up to a maximum of £250 per child (as at present).
5. SENDIP will accept TSF requests for children not currently in receipt of inclusion support funding in the early years, in exceptional circumstances only. Such children are likely to be ‘movers in’ to Bath & North East Somerset, children who have deteriorating conditions, or children in trauma.
6. **Advantages for Schools of the Proposed Changes**

* Children who have very high level SEND will, if appropriate requests are made and thresholds met, have EHC plans set up before they commence school. The likelihood is that an increasing number of such plans will be set up, given the increase in early identification of these children.
* The LA’s preventative strategy and implementation will mean that children with high-level additional needs who do not meet the statutory thresholds will be supported through transition and have better outcomes. Schools are more likely to know sooner rather than later who these children might be, and the level of funding for each child, as most will already be in receipt of early years inclusion support funding. This should make planning their provision easier.
* Schools will know that the children with the highest needs are being targeted for TSF, and that the financial resources allocated through Schools’ Forum are being used efficiently.
* The funding will now continue over the full reception year with an extra £1,260 allocated per child. Previously, TSF was a maximum of £3,000 and ended in term 4. Therefore, this means schools will have longer to consider applying for an EHC needs assessment and there will be no gap in funding for terms 5 and 6.

1. **Budget pressure**

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| **\*\* Budget pressure of £105,000 \*\***  based on 46 children receiving transition support funding at £9.50 per hour at 30 hours over 38 weeks from Sept 17 to July 18 (deducting delegated funding of £6,000 per child). |

1. **Additional information**

TSF budget:

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| **Financial Year** | **Budget** | **Notes** |
| **2016-17** | **£120,000** | 45 children with complex and high-level SEND supported through transition support funding.  Evidence shows an average total point score increase of 2.2 (EYFS profile score) for children who received TSF over the past three years.  **2013 – 19.5 2014 – 23.2 2015 – 23.9** |
| **2017-18** | **£120,000**  **Require £105,000 increase in budget** | Anticipating budget pressure of £105,000 for this financial year if changes agreed by Schools’ Forum. |