SCHOOLS’ FORUM

**9.6**

Date: November 2016

Heading: Review of Specialist Early Years Pre-School Provision

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| **Lead Officer/s** | Deborah Forward and Alice McColl |
| **Contact details** |  |
| **Forum asked to be informed/decision** | To note how schools forum funding is being spent.  To update on the service Review of Early Years specialist provision  To request an increase in budget of £30,000 for 2017-2018. |
| **Time Needed** | **10 minutes** |

**1. Background**

School Forum currently allocates £40,000 towards specialist early years pre-school provision. This funding contributes to a contract of £125,000 per annum with Bath Opportunity Pre-school (BOP), a registered charity based in an annex of Threeways Special School in Bath. This funding is broken down as follows £40,000 Schools Forum, £65,000 Local Authority, £20,000 Health.

BOP provides early education and care for 29 children aged 2 to 5 years with higher and more complex health and educational needs. In addition 24 children with complex needs receive an early support home learning service annually. Working closely with health, education and social care, BOP plays a pivotal role in the SEND Local Offer - providing support, information and advice to parents and carers; leading on Education Health and Care Plans where appropriate; transition support into schools and training for early years settings and schools on individualised learning and care support packages to enable children with complex needs to access education.

**2. Service Review**

The current contract expires at the end of August 2017 and the service is to be recommissioned from September 1st 2017. A review has been carried in 2015-16. This has included engagement with current providers, specialist health, education and early years providers, special educational advisors and service users. Current data on the cohort of children with specialist education needs 0-5 years in Bath and North East Somerset has been analysed.

The following key findings have emerged from the review;

* A significant increase in number of children with special education needs and disabilities aged 0-5 years in the past three years (182 pre-school age children services with SEND/ probable SEND, including an estimated 60 pre-school age children with ‘high need’ with highest levels in Bath West.
* An increase in complexity of need with more children requiring button or tube feeding, lifting and personal care and autistic spectrum disorders
* Reduced fundraising capacity in current provision has required Threeways School to provide significant business and management support for which there has been no charge to date. (*Commissioners have worked to address a £20,000 shortfall in 2016-7 on a short-term basis through re-allocation of funds.)*
* Increase in demand from parents for EHC Plans earlier - subsequent increase in workload for BOP to compile EHC needs request.
* Examples of good practice in joint working between specialist health and early years providers and advisors.
* Case studies show that some families can be dealing with up to 30 different services/professionals to support their child. Navigation of a combination of health and education requirements and continuity can be a problem for parents and carers.
* Somer Valley Childrens Centre area has the highest number of SEND/probable SEND pre-school age children
* Families in Somer Valley find it difficult to access BOP in Bath and RUH for specialist appointments – in particular if they have other children to transport to school, nursery elsewhere.
* Parents working more hours, require more hours of child care and requiring children with high needs are going into mainstream nurseries. On-going training and support on individual children’s requirements is needed to these settings to ensure children are included. This is particularly challenging with high staff turnover.

**Recommendations**

* To recommission specialist early years educational provision for children with complex needs service from September 2017 for a period of 3 years with the option to extend annually for a further 2 years.
* For the new contract to include a phased approach to development of geographically located specialist early years hub in Somer Valley within an existing setting/service.
* To re-model current service to provide outreach to specialist early years outreach hubs and align with changes to take place in community health services through Your Care Your Way.

**Request for funding**

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| **Financial Year** | **Budget** | **Notes** |
| **2017-18** | **£30,000**  **Require £30,000 increase in budget** | Anticipating budget pressure of £20,000 for this financial year.  £10,000 for development of hub and spoke model to include outreach and Somer Valley hub. |
| **2018-19** | **£70,000**  **Require £70,000 increase in budget** | Anticipating budget pressure of £20,000 for this financial year.  £50,000 increase on delivery of Somer Valley specialist EY hub (based upon estimate of cost of £5,000 per child – 10 high, complex need cases) |
| **2019-2020** | **£70,000**  **Require £70,000 increase in budget** | £20,000  £50,000 for hub and spoke model including Somer Valley specialist hub. |