SCHOOLS’ FORUM

 **5**

Date: 14th November 2017

Heading: SEND Updates

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| **Lead Officer/s** | Christopher Wilford  |
| **Contact details** | **Christopher\_wilford@bathnes.gov.uk** **;**  |
| **Forum asked to be informed/decision** | SEND Updates, New Banding Model & Next Steps  |
| **Time Needed** | **15 minutes** |

**1. Background**

1.1 In July 2017 Forum was advised that the Local Authority was currently reviewing the way that the high need allocations of finances are made for Education Health Care Plans and that SEND Banding Group made up of headteachers and education representatives were reviewing and drawing up new banding arrangements. This paper acts as an update on the progress of this work.

**2. Forum is advised that**

2.1 That a regular group of headteachers and SENCO’s have been involved in the creation of the new banding model and that work has begun to transfer all existing Statements and EHCP’s to the new banding model. This work is nearly complete.

2.2 The next steps for the proposed banding changes and roll out will be decided at a planned meeting with the group of headteachers and representatives before Christmas.

2.3 Work also needs to be completed to add values to these bandings to ensure that funding is fair and transparent. At this stage there is no proposal to reduce the overall amount of funding that is available to schools.

2.4 The Local Authority is creating a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) to support this work these will be circulated to all schools, settings and colleges

**3. Report**

3.1 New bandings have been drafted and agreed in the SEND Banding Group, with leadership representation from early years settings, primary schools, secondary schools and with Local Authority Officers. These have been circulated widely and have been well received by all parties.

3.2 Work is nearly complete to move all statements and plans into the new banding model. Five days were set aside to do this work and it was done with SENCO’s who were invited to these days. Over 40 SENCO’s attended at different times, feedback from SENCO’s on the bandings and the individual descriptors was very positive. We also had a session on banding at a SENCO workshop in October which was equally well attended.

3.3 This new model will provide a consistent set of bandings across all settings from early years to colleges and replaces a mixed model of allocation that the Local Authority has held for some time, to an approach that is more consistent with developing practice in Local Authorities across the country

3.3 These bandings now have to have financial values attached to them, based on the total amount of funding available. At this stage the LA is not proposing a reduction in the total amount SEND funding available for these bandings. However some financial allocations for each pupil may go up or down. This may affect a schools overall allocation positively or adversely. At this stage we do not have this school level data.

3.4 Further discussion will take place with the SEND Banding Group to establish next steps once we have been able to move the results of the bandings into data at a school level. We do not propose when completed to share openly all the results of the banding with all schools, but will agree a process of how schools are consulted on these changes and what representation can be made by a school if needed.

3.5 The Local Authority continues to plan to roll out the new banding model in April 2018.

3.6 A copy of the new bandings with their descriptors is attached for information.