SCHOOLS’ FORUM

 **6**

4th July 2017

Review of Medical Funding

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| **Lead Officer/s** | Christopher Wilford Christine Jones |
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| **Forum asked to be informed/decision** | For Schools Forum to be advised that the Local Authority is drafting a Medical Policy related to funding children with medical needs in school. That the Local Authority is reviewing all children with funding for medical support |
| **Time Needed** | **15 minutes** |

**1. Background**

1.1 As part of the review of the High Needs budget the local authority has been looking at a historical budget to support children with medical needs to access their education

1.2 Currently any request for financial support children with medical needs is fully met via the high needs budget. After consultation with the DFE and reviewing current DFE guidance, this approach is not deemed to be concurrent with the advice and guidance that we have received and examined.

1.3 The Local Area does have some examples of local good practice with our health colleagues. For example for children with significant health needs, we operate a policy of jointly supporting their needs with match funding from health. We would look to continue this practice.

**2. Forum is advised that**

2.1 The Local Authority is drafting a new policy on medical funding for pupils. We will look to deliver this policy to schools forum in September 2017

2.2 In the interim the Local Authority has written to all schools to provide an updated request & individual healthcare plan for those pupils who need medical funding. Schools not providing this will have their medical funding withdrawn in September 2017.

2.3 That the Local Authority will look to apply its new policy from January 2018.

**3. Report**

3.1 We have consulted with the DFE on the approach with our policy and are examining the DFE statutory guidance produced for schools for children with medical conditions (see appendix one). As advised in the guidance all schools are required to have a policy regarding supporting children with medical conditions. Governing bodies are statutorily required to ensure that arrangements are in place for these children to be fully included in the education provided by the school.

3.4 Currently the medical funding budget provides £161k of support to 29 children. Table 1 below illustrates the levels of funding supplied by medical condition

**Table 1.**

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| **Medical Need** | **Funding** | **Number** |
| Bladder and Bowel | £6,058.40 | 1 |
| Brittle Bones | £13,631.40 | 2 |
| Celebilitis | £4,543.80 | 1 |
| Cerebral palsy | £6,815.70 | 1 |
| Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | £7,573.00 | 2 |
| Epilepsy | £11,359.50 | 2 |
| Fainting absences | £2,271.90 | 1 |
| Genetic disorder | £3,029.20 | 1 |
| Joint Hypermobility Syndrome | £6,815.70 | 1 |
| Limb lengthening surgery | £6,815.70 | 1 |
| Multi Focal Osteomyelitis (Bones) | £9,087.60 | 1 |
| Physical | £19,689.80 | 2 |
| Type 1 Diabetes | £61,341.30 | 15 |
| Type 1 Diabetes and Coeliac Disease | £3,029.20 | 1 |

3.6 There are currently 31 schools who receive medical funding for pupils. Most have only one pupil that is receiving support, though one school is currently supporting three pupils with medical needs via medical funding.

3.7 The Local Authority calculates how much funding is awarded to each school by using the current financial matrix which is applied to SEND funding. This is done by applying a unit formula. Currently the Local Authority uses the high needs budget to pay for all the support needed to enable these children to access their education, whereas for children with SEN, the school would be responsible for providing the first £6k of support to these children.

3.8 The Local Authority in its new policy will propose that schools will be responsible for providing a the same level of support as they would for SEN children before they can expect to apply for and receive medical funding via the high needs budget. All future requests for medical funding will be looked at by the SEND panel which is attended by Health Commissioners.

3.9 Some schools in receipt of medical funding have been receiving this finance since 2011. It is not clear if these pupils continue to need this funding. We have therefore written to all schools with medical funding and asked that they supply an Individual Health Plan for each pupil that is approved by a medical practitioner that outlines the needs and costs associated with supporting this pupil to access there education. This was done in May 2017.

3.10 All those who do not submit a new plan will have medical funding withdrawn. The Local Authority will do this each year & to ensure efficient use of resources. September 2017 therefore we will have a much more accurate picture of the numbers of children who will actually need support via medical funding.