

Feasibility Report to Schools Forum – Tuesday 3rd October 2017

Presented by: Mick Harrison, Commissioner for Safety, Children and Families

Aim: To provide a recommendation to schools forum on the best use of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from April 2018. This report outlines a framework of options which is believed will ensure the money is spent on the most appropriate resources available to children and families across a district. In order for this framework to be most current Tamworth district is used as an example.

Context: The relationship between schools and Local Authorities is changing. Schools have become more autonomous in their delivery and Staffordshire County Council have seen a reduction in funding which has meant we have needed to prioritise resource towards those who need it most which often means the most vulnerable. The Children's System Transformation strives to make better use of our resources and work more with partners to recognise and reduce demand by tackling root causes. We are starting to understand future demand and as a result utilise resources more effectively across the partnership. Through the Place Based Approach (PBA) we hope to target support through earliest and early help to reduce demand on the highest level of the system. We understand the need to ensure resource is used to prevent children and families needing statutory services, we realise there needs to be some investment to keep children entering the system which then reduces there opportunity to achieve positive outcomes compared to their peers who do not enter a system. PBA is a collaborative approach using the right resources (multi-skilled teams, universal services, voluntary sector, communities etc.) at the right time to improve outcomes for children, young people, families, vulnerable people and communities in an identified locality. As the forum will be aware at the last meeting on the 13th September a high level options paper was tabled with two options for consideration. Please find that previous paper included as an appendix. We were asked by the forum to scope out the second option in greater detail for this meeting.

SCC Offer: It is suggested that we have the understanding, knowledge and ability to broker the DSG funding in a district in the areas that need early help most. We will utilise existing quality assured commissioned providers, our developing relationships with partners, our shared locality budgets (i.e. grants/BRFC PBR) and ensure the money is spent effectively. The DSG would complement other SCC statutory delivery in terms of LST and safeguarding intervention and contracts commissioned across the earliest and early help agenda; 0-19 (school nurse and health visitors), BRFC Accredited Framework and family support services, circa £30m annually. In addition we will be able to provide governance and assurance through our commissioning structure, performance management and value for money.

Budget overview: The total allocation is £1.448m. The formula is made up of an amount for each pupil (basic entitlement) and then additional needs such as prior attainment and deprivation factors are included and this is how the figure is calculated. Once the formula is added the district profile is highlighted below:

Sum of LST funding per FSM (Ever 6)	
District2	Total
Cannock Chase District	199,718
East Staffordshire Borough	229,091
Lichfield District	136,535
Newcastle Borough	234,522
South Staffordshire	144,463
Stafford Borough	167,317
Staffordshire Moorlands	154,677
Tamworth Borough	181,677
Grand Total	1,448,000

The allocation by school ranges significantly. With some schools receiving £63 – £200 and larger schools receiving £20,000 - £27,000.

What might this look like in Tamworth?

There are 16,900 children and young people under 18 living in Tamworth. We know that out of every 100 children 10 are diagnosed with a mental health condition, 12 are living in single parent households, 18 are living in low income, 5 are living with unemployed adults and 4 are likely to become teenage parents before they are 18. Compared to the county wide data set, predictive analysis is informing us that some children might be more likely to live in a household with domestic abuse, be at risk of CSE or go missing, be excluded, in alternative provision or become NEET.

Tamworth has an allocation of £181,677. In order to respond to the above it is suggested that a number of options could be used to address issues and prevent escalation. Please see the below diagram that demonstrates how the DSG could add value to the wider Place Based Approach:



Family Support – SCC are commissioning a family support service which will offer early help to families in need. The support will co-ordinate whole family assessment and delivery and can cost a maximum of £1400 per family intervention. Those children living in worklessness households may also experience issues of poor attendance and low attainment. It is suggested that this support could be further utilised in the higher prevalent areas in the district.

Emotional Health and Well-being – a number of providers are working in the district to provide children and young people with support to improve mental health. £50 would buy one session with a provider for counselling. It is known that more children and young people are dealing with issues affecting emotional well-being and suggest that lower level interventions are most effective when preventing escalating needs and CAMHS interventions.

Early and Earliest Help Activities – through the development of the PBA in Tamworth gaps in provision for children and young people will emerge. To ensure no duplication and to add value to existing provision the DSG can be used to support interventions where needed.

Analysis:

<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Threats</i>	<i>Further considerations</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to pump prime the market where there might be local gaps • Would add value to the place based local offer as delivery would be focused around core outcomes • Ensures the DSG is spent on children who need it most • Emotional well-being and family support commissioning arrangements are in place with tight and robust performance monitoring therefore providing assurance around quality of provision. • Contribute to the connectivity of resources to ensure services are better aligned and less disjointed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may not be sufficient capacity to meet the demands even through partnership pooling of resources. • Some schools may feel they do not receive benefit • No guarantees – could create a mixed economy of provision especially if some schools do not contribute. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC would prioritise delivery against the most vulnerable • Bespoke interventions for specific clusters/MAT's • Utilise existing district intelligence and relationships with schools • The wider delivery arrangements in the districts • Meeting needs across large, diverse districts • Providers capacity on tier 2 emotional well-being framework • Wider consultation with schools

Summary: We believe this is a real opportunity for schools to shape provision for children and families across a district, it connects resources and will ensure added value whilst supporting the aim of schools so children fulfil their potential and prosper. It is suggested that the Schools Forum consider the above as a suitable option for the DSG allocation. If approved further analysis and agreement would need to be completed in each district with the PBA implementation, this would determine how the district allocation is divided and if any other opportunities would be suitable.