

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**PUBLIC**

Report to:	Cabinet
Report of:	Interim Corporate Director – Children and Young People
Date of Decision:	18th April 2017
SUBJECT:	HIGH NEEDS STRATEGIC PLANNING GRANT
Key Decision: Yes	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: 003344/2017
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Brigid Jones - Children, Families & Schools
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Councillor Susan Barnett - Schools, Children & Families
Wards affected:	All

1. Purpose of report:
1.1 To note the receipt of the High Needs Strategic Planning Revenue Grant of £563k from the Department for Education (DfE).
1.2 To seek approval to the proposed initiatives to be supported by this grant and authorise orders to be placed up to this amount.

2. Decision(s) recommended:
That Cabinet:-
2.1 Note the receipt of the High Needs Strategic Planning Revenue Grant of £563k from the Department for Education (DfE).
2.2 Authorise the Acting Assistant Director to place orders up to £563k to deliver the proposed initiatives in paragraph 5.3.
2.3 To note that all orders will be placed either through existing contracts or in accordance with the Procurement Governance Arrangements.

Lead Contact Officer(s):	Jill Crosbie Acting Assistant Director – Children with Complex Needs
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3.	Consultation
3.1	<p>Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended</p> <p><u>Internal</u></p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Schools has been consulted and supports the recommendations in this report proceeding to an executive decision . Officers from City Finance Legal Democratic Services have been involved in the preparation of this report</p>
3.2	<p><u>External</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.	Compliance Issues:
4.1	<p><u>Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?</u></p> <p>The recommendations contained within this report are consistent with supporting proposals within the Financial Plan 2017+ approved by City Council on the 28th February 2017 'Design and implement a new approach to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and move away from a high dependency model'</p>
4.2	<p><u>Financial Implications</u> (Will decisions be carried out within existing finance and Resources?)</p> <p>The cost of delivering the initiatives outlined in paragraph 5.3 will be contained within the revenue grant allocation of £563k. There is no requirement for match funding/local contribution.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Legal Implications</u></p> <p>The high needs funding system supports provision for pupils and students with special educational needs and disabilities from their early years to 25. The Children and Families Act 2014 extends local authorities' statutory duties relating to SEND across the 0 to 25 age range.</p>
4.4	<p><u>Public Sector Equality Duty (see separate guidance note)</u></p> <p>The review and strategy are about delivering equality of opportunity to all young people and their families in spite of their additional needs or disabilities. There are no negative equality issues arising from the activity.</p>

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

5.1 In December 2016 the DfE announced a revenue grant to enable local authorities to carry out a strategic review of their High Needs provision. Birmingham's share of the national total of £23m is £563k. The grant was received on the 31st January 2017 and local authorities will be able to carry forward any unused grant into 2017/18. It is understood that this is a one off revenue grant for which no expiry date is set for expenditure. The actual DfE guidance states:

'We anticipate that local authorities will use the funding provided to increase their capacity so that their review and planning of special provision is high-quality and collaborative, where appropriate undertaken jointly with neighbouring authorities. Where such review and planning work has already been undertaken, along the lines envisaged, this fund can be used to help implement the outcomes of the reviews. Local authorities should publish the outcomes of these reviews in the form of strategic plans to demonstrate transparency and accountability'.

5.2 The grant award is timely in view of progress made in setting up the Inclusion Commission. The original grant for implementing the SEND reforms is under pressure and the receipt of this grant will alleviate that considerably.

5.3 It is proposed to use the grant to fund the following initiatives:

- SEND review and associated consultant costs.
- Investment in a broad consultation and communication exercise to help build confidence in the proposed new approach and the culture change needed.
- Fund the production of a document to share with stakeholders and also video and web based materials as part of the Local Offer.
- Fund costs associated with particular parts of the implementation plan, approved by the Inclusion Commission on an invest to save basis e.g. commission someone to re-negotiate contracts with independent providers.

The initiatives selected are in line with the work of the Inclusion Commission and may develop as their strategy is finalised and agreed.

5.4 The procurement of the above service requirements will either be through existing contracts or will be carried out in accordance with the Procurement Governance Arrangements.

6. Evaluation of alternative option (s):

6.1 This is a grant award which must be spent in line with DfE guidance.

7. Reasons for Decision(s):

7.1 To note the receipt of grant and progress the proposed initiatives to implementation.

Signatures	<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Schools
Interim Corporate Director for Children, and Young People

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:
DoE Grant determination for high needs strategic planning fund in 2016-17: DCLG ref 31/2916

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):
None

Report Version	<u>V4</u>	Dated	<u>05/04/2017</u>
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