

## **SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING – 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019**

### **Specialist Education Provision for Children Looked After with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs who may otherwise be placed out of borough - UPDATE**

#### **1. Introduction**

In October 2018 Cabinet agreed to acquire 2 new 5 bedroom homes and procure an education provider to deliver a specialist Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 education provision for Children and young people who are Looked After (CLA) with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs who may otherwise need to be placed out of borough for their residential and educational needs.

The education provider will be required to deliver “Good” or “Outstanding” education provision to a small group (initially 10-15) pupils identified by the Council’s Special Education Needs Advisory Group (SENAG) as having special educational needs which cannot currently be met locally. These pupils will be predominantly children and young people who are looked after (CLA) and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or are undergoing a statutory assessment of their Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). These pupils are currently educated out of borough or would otherwise need to be educated out of the borough due to a lack of current local suitable residential and or education provision.

#### **2. Timescales**

The tender opportunity is due to be published shortly to potential education providers via the Council’s procurement system YORTender.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Publish tender opportunity on YORTender for an education provider	Late March / Early April 2019
Tenders submitted to the Council for evaluation	Mid May 2019
Council award contract	Early June 2019
Provider take over facility	June 2019
New education provision commences	September 2019

#### **3. Process and Funding**

The pupils identified to attend this provision will be children and young people being brought back into the borough (i.e. that are currently accommodated and educated out of borough) or those which would otherwise be sent out of borough to be accommodated and educated. As a result this should have

little impact on existing mainstream and or specialist educational local provision.

The process for CLA to be allocated to this provision is via the Council's Special Education Needs Advisory Group (SENAG) following a formal education, health and care assessment request (EHCAR). Where a CLA is identified as having SEND, but does not yet have an EHCP, a rapid assessment process is to be considered. SENAG will ensure that each pupil will receive the required funding. In the rare instance that a pupil is dual registered at this provision the same funding mechanisms will be used as with alternative provision placements.

When discussions were being held recently with the Schools Forum (ITEM 21/18) and the wider schools community on the top slice this was one of the proposed actions discussed. The monetary impact in returning these children and young people to the area would be cost reduction on existing spend in that where it was safe and appropriate to do so a small number of children/young people would be brought back into the local area. Out of area education and residential costs are generally more expensive and although the precise amount of saving / reduction cannot be precisely quantified as it depends on the children and young people concerned it is considered due to the anticipated period of time for their current provision and associated social care and education costs that it could be significant.

The project team are still finalising the budget envelope for this provision but are mindful of overall budget position and the current rates we pay compared to the market.

#### **4. Recommendation**

This report is for information only and no formal decision is required. Schools Forum's secondary representatives are requested to ensure that this information is feedback at the forthcoming Secondary Heads Teachers meeting.

Contact Officer: Pip Harrison  
Commissioning and Strategic Support Team Manager  
[Pip.harrison@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:Pip.harrison@nelincs.gov.uk)

18<sup>th</sup> March 2019