

Decision Maker: EXECUTIVE

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 8th July 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **DRAWDOWN OF GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY IN ITS ROLE AS A LONDON REGIONAL LEAD FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY (SEND) REFORMS FROM APRIL 2015/16**

Contact Officer: Mary Cava, SEND Implementation Lead
Tel: 020 8461 7633 E-mail: mary.cava@bromley.gov.uk

Helen Norris, Head of Specialist Support & Disability Service
Tel: 020 8315 4740 E-mail: helen.norris@phoenixsch.org.uk

Chief Officer: Jane Bailey, Assistant Director: Education

Ward: Borough-wide

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Children & Families Act received Royal Assent in April 2014 and became law on 1st September 2014.
- 1.2 The London Borough of Bromley has been a Pathfinder since 2011 and Pathfinder Champion for London, in partnership with the London Boroughs of Bexley and Enfield. Following a joint application the London Borough of Bromley in partnership with the London Borough of Enfield has been named as the SEN & Disability (SEND) Regional Leads for London to build on the joint borough Pathfinder Champion work. This will facilitate a peer SEND learning approach, sharing best practice to support statutory compliance and the London-wide implementation of the Special Educational Needs & Disability Reforms 2015/16.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval of the release of grant funds, held in the 2015/16 central contingency, of £61,924 funding which has been allocated by the DfE for the London Regional SEND programme. The funding is allocated to Bromley to work with partners in Enfield to coordinate the programme across 33 London boroughs. This has been made up of £37,500 base funding with a top-up amount based on the number of authorities in the London region of £24,424, making £61,924. In addition £45,941 has been allocated for a new grant: 'Preparation for Employment', of which £15k is for Regional Leads to coordinate work opportunities across the London Region for this cohort of young people with SEN & Disabilities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Education PDS Committee is asked to consider the contents of this report and recommend approval from the Council Executive to drawdown £61,924 SEND Regional Lead for London grant funding from the central contingency.**
- 2.2 The Executive Committee is asked to:**
- i) Consider the contents of the report; and,**
 - ii) Approve the release of £61,924 of non-ring fenced funding for the continued role of the London Borough of Bromley as SEN & Disability (SEND) Regional Lead for London in partnership with London Borough of Enfield 15/16.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: New Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £76,924
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable: One off payment until March 2016
 3. Budget head/performance centre: SEND Regional Lead for London grant (DfE) 136355
 4. Total current budget for this head: £0
 5. Source of funding: DfE Grants
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Children and Families Act 2014
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Children and young people with SEN and disabilities and their families across 33 London boroughs including 2,000 children and young people together with their parents/carers in Bromley.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
 2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A
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3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The London Borough of Bromley has been working as an SEND Pathfinder since September 2011 testing the SEN & Disability Green Paper proposals described as the most radical reform in this field in more than 30 years. Bromley, working with Bexley Pathfinder, was one of 20 Pathfinders agreed across England with 31 Local Authorities and their health partners.
- 3.2 As a consequence of the successful work carried out during the first phase of the Pathfinder, Bromley achieved Joint Pathfinder Champion status (firstly with Bexley and then Enfield) for two years from April 2013, to support non-Pathfinder authorities across London in their preparation for the implementation of the new statutory SEN & Disability Reforms. In addition the work was to support the Department for Education (DfE) / Department of Health (DoH) and national delivery partners in developing the emerging new SEND Code of Practice. The joint bid was one of only 9 national Pathfinder Champion bids selected across England. The grant received from the DfE was allocated to support the implementation of the new SEN and Disability Reforms in 15 non-Pathfinder London local authorities designated as London Region 1. This programme was successfully delivered and highly evaluated.
- 3.3 During this period extensive progress has been made on testing the key areas of SEND Reform and reporting findings and conclusions back to the DfE and DoH in order to inform both the legislative process and the drafting of the new statutory Code of Practice. This work also supported Bromley in developing new systems and processes and provided key staff with important opportunities to attend stakeholder meetings and conferences. This contributed to staff understanding of the new legislative and organisational/ cultural changes as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and new SEND Code of Practice.
- 3.4 The delivery targets for Pathfinder Champion activity 2013 -15 were set by the DfE and assessed around implementation of the emerging SEND Reform programme.
- 3.5 As Pathfinder Champion for London Region 1 in 2014/15, Bromley, Bexley & Enfield delivered:
- Bespoke support on the SEND reforms in the 15 London Region 1 Champion authorities
 - 4 regional case studies
 - An extensive workforce development programme on key priority areas of the SEND reforms. Workshops and conferences were often delivered by senior officers from the DfE and other national delivery partners. As a Champion LA Bromley staff had extended access to many of these training opportunities which were highly evaluated by attendees
 - Coordination and delivery of workshops and training across the London region on key areas of the SEND Reform programme has been achieved at all levels and included a briefing to the Association of London Directors of Children's Services in association with the London Councils where the SEND priorities for London in 2015/16 were considered. Work with the DfE, Ofsted, CDC, DoH, Parent/Carer forums across London and other voluntary sector and national delivery partners contributed to the training plan.
 - Development of a London Region 1 Champion Information WIKI on resources and information to support the new SEND reforms.

In 14/15 workforce development included all key priority areas as outlined in 3.3 and support to the processes around quality conversion of Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments into statutory Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans

- 3.6 The DfE's vision is for children and young people with special needs is that they achieve well in early years, at school and in college; lead happy and fulfilled lives; and have choice and control. Raising aspirations and achievement for children and young people with SEND set the context for Bromley's Pathfinder and Champion work, and this needed to be considered in a context of

rising numbers of disabled children. The general increase in population and the result of medical advances has led to this large increase in the number of children and young people with more severe SEN and disability, coupled with greatly increased health needs and complex family circumstances requiring an integrated approach across Education, Health & Care.

- 3.7 Evaluations from the 14/15 Pathfinder Champion for London programme were used to inform a joint application with Enfield to lead a London wide SEND Regional Lead programme of support with the aim of building sustainability of the new SEND reforms across London post March 16. Due to the funding available this will be a reduced programme from the 14/15 offer which will also develop SEND support networks and the sharing of best practice across London, offering further training opportunities.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The £76,924 DfE Grant funding is made up of £37,500 base funding, a £24,424 top-up based on the number of authorities across the London region and £15,000 Preparation for Employment grant. As lead partner Bromley is receiving the SEND Regional Lead funding on behalf of both Bromley and Enfield Local Authorities. The £15k has already been requested for drawdown on report ED15089, as it is just an element of the Preparation for Employment grant carried forward from 2014/15.
- 4.2 The funding from the DfE is an un-ring-fenced grant and the Department has set out its aspirations for how Regional Leads should use the allocated funding with suggested success measures to assess impact.
- 4.3 The 15/16 grant allocation is the last year to DfE funding to support Regional Implementation of the new SEND Reforms and share best practice across England.
- 4.4 All activities and costs arising from the implementation of the SEND Regional Lead for London reform work would be met from within the DfE grant allocation in a partnership approach with Enfield.
- 4.5 The table below identifies provides a summary of the 2015/16 anticipated spending plan for this funding. The budget holder would be the Head of Specialist Support & Disability Services who is the current Regional SEND Lead for London from Bromley with further oversight by the Bromley SEND Implementation Project Board and a Delivery Support Contractor appointed by the DfE. Further details are provided in Appendix 1.

	£'000
Employees - LBB	25,500
Employees - Enfield	14,500
Consultancy	10,000
Employment pilot	10,000
Venue hire/expenses etc	8,500
Contingency	7,924
	76,424

- 4.6 The above table includes £25,500 for Bromley staff time, in respect of Head of Specialist Support & Disability Services, Parent Participation Officer, 16-25 Commissioning Manager, Officer and administrative support to deliver and coordinate the London Regional SEND Programme and Preparation for Employment grant activity coordination across London. This will ensure that all Bromley staff supporting the Programme are fully funded through the grant. £14,500 will be allocated towards Enfield staffing with £10,000 allocated to time limited resources including external consultancy to support expertise and specific elements of the

programme. The remaining sum reflects venue hire, expenses and Preparation for Employment grant coordination of activity across London.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Statutory Compliance with the Children & Families Act 2014.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	N/A