

Subject:	Re-organisation of Special Education in the city - Progress Report on the Complex Needs and SEMH Hubs		
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Georgina Clarke-Green	Tel: 01273 292257
	Email:	Georgina.ClarkeGreen@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Children Young People and Skills Committee on the Re-organisation of Special Education in the city
- 1.2 The two Complex Needs hubs and the SEMH hub have been open since September 2018 and a paper was presented in November 2018 to set out progress on the first stage of implementation and next steps

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the report

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 18 September 2017, the Children, Young People and Skills Committee approved final recommendations to create three special school hubs from the previous six special schools and two Pupil Referral Units in the City.
- 3.5 Specifically recommendations were to:
 - expand, re-designate and extend the age range up to the age of 19 years of Hillside Community Special School, and close Downs Park Community Special School so as to form the integrated hub for severe and complex learning difficulties in the west of the city - now re-named Hill Park
 - expand and re-designate Downs View Community Special School, and close the Cedar Centre Community Special School so as to form the integrated hub for severe and complex learning difficulties in the east of the city – now named Downs View
 - expand and extend the age range of Homewood College from 11-16 to 5-19
 - approve the merger of the existing Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and the

Connected Hub, and the arrangements to bring the merged PRU together with Homewood College to form the integrated hub for social, emotional and mental health – known as the Central Hub Brighton

3.2 The success of the re-organisation will be judged on the basis of the agreed outcomes being sought, notably:

- Excellent quality local provision for all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Improved academic outcomes for all
- Improved attendance rates and a reduction in exclusions
- Increased percentage of young people in further education, employment or training post statutory school age
- Reduction in family breakdown and the number of special school pupils needing to be in the care of the Local Authority
- Reduction in number of children placed in expensive out of City independent provision
- All three Hubs judged outstanding by Ofsted
- All three Hubs financially stable and no budget deficits in our special provision

3.3 Agreed efficiency savings made through consolidation of sites, leadership and back office functions

4. PROGRESS UPDATES

4.1 Buildings update

4.1.1 Work commenced on both sites over the summer holiday period. Unfortunately it was only possible to give the instruction to start in early July owing to protracted discussions regarding the costs provided for some elements of work. The constructor was unable to commence works at the start of the summer holiday period as a result of the necessary mobilisation period for some items of work. We are working with the schools and the constructor to ensure that the work is completed in as short as possible time while maintaining the quality of the work and the ability of the schools to operate. It is hoped that both projects will be completed within the original timeframes but it too early to confirm that this is the case.

4.1.2 Design work for the central SEMH hub will commence once the outcome of the SEMH Consultation is known and then a brief can be prepared for the accommodation needed.

4.2 SEMH Consultation

4.2.1 A consultation into changes for the Central Hub (formerly SEMH Hub) was launched on 9th September 2019, ending 20th October 2019. The proposals were;

- Homewood College moves from the current site in Queensdown Road to the Cedar Centre site on Lynchet Close once it has been vacated by the special school.
- The KS3 PRU located on Dyke Road moves to the current KS1, 2 and 4 site on Lynchet Close.

- The KS1 and 2 PRU move from their current site in Lynchet Close to spare accommodation located in a local primary school, thereby providing adequate space for KS3 to move onto the Lynchet Close site.

4.2.2 Consultation events were held with staff at Homewood and Pupil Referral Units and a public meeting held. Stakeholders were able to respond in person, consultation portal, email and dedicated voicemail. The analysis of responses is included in section 5 below (to be completed at the end of the consultation).

4.2.3 Current parents have been sent a letter by Executive Head Teacher of Central Hub which included an offer to follow up on any issues related to current pupils on an individual basis. This is in addition to the other forms of contact available to other stakeholders.

4.3 Post 16

4.3.1 Special Educational Needs Young People's Employability Task & Finish Group has looked at a range of data provided by the FCL Employment and Skills Project Officer. Discussions have taken place with providers from the local post 16 sector to consider the *post-16 provision landscape*, including independent provision. Consideration has been given to looking at provision being available in the right locations across the city; access to provision in schools, identifying good practice; and agreeing the need for communicating better with parents about the post 16 offer – with potential for a transition online guide to support this.

4.3.2 Further work is required to investigate and address:

- How Post-16 education providers work with social care when progression stalls for children in care or previously in care with an Education Health & Care Plan?
- How well are the EHC Plans working for young people in Post-16 provision?
- Are providers putting the right support in place?

4.3.3 Further work is also required to clarify the reasons which lead to EHC plans ceasing and the implications of cessation;

- Is it the right thing for the young people?
- And clarity of the Legal Advice which informs the Local Authority duties.

4.4 Under 5

4.4.1 We are currently looking at options to improve the under 5 offer to children with Special Educational Needs and Disability. The Jeanne Saunders Centre offers 18 part time places for children in their year before starting school agreed as needing assessment and specialist provision by a multi-agency panel. There are several options being discussed, once a preferred option has been agreed all stakeholders will be consulted.

4.5 Project Governance

4.5.1 In order to monitor progress of the project and ensure that intended objectives were achieved an Oversight and Steering group was formed. Attendees included Executive Head Teacher from each hub, Chair of Governors from each of the hubs and Local Authority representatives from key departments.

4.5.2 At the most recent meeting, it has been agreed that this group will become part of an existing Special School Partnership meeting. The purpose will remain and ensure that key actions are being completed and outcomes for young people achieved.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 Since the SEND Review in 2014 there have been a number of engagement and consultation opportunities for stakeholders to help shape recommendations and provide information to support key decisions. This approach has been continued with recent consultation into proposed changes to Central Hub (formerly SEMH Hub) which are detailed below.

5.2 Central (SEMH) Hub Consultation;

- On proposed changes to Homewood College, Key Stage 1 & 2 and Key Stage 3 & 4 Pupil Referral Units.
- Proposed changes are to relocate SEMH Special School from Homewood College to Cedar Centre site, move Primary PRU from Lynchet Close to a mainstream secondary and move Secondary PRU to Lynchet Close from Dyke Road
- Consultation ran from 9th September to 20th October. Opportunities for people to respond included;
 - Meeting with staff groups at each provision
 - Online Consultation Portal
 - Dedicated Voicemail and email address
 - Open meeting which included local residents

5.3 Following completion of the consultation, responses were analysed by Local authority officers, Executive Head of Central Hub and Governor representative. The analysis and local authority response have been shared with Executive Director for Families Children & Learning and lead member for Children, Young People and Skills Committee for a final decision.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Re-organisation of Special Education in the city continues; work is under way at the East and West Hubs with design work to start at the end of the consultation in the Central Hub. Under-5 offer and Post 16 are key areas of development where work will continue.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 The establishment of the three hubs have generated savings enabling funding to be used in more efficient and effective ways. In previous committee reports it was estimated that the changes to special schools would save in the region of £700k over a multi-year period starting in 2018/19. To date revenue savings have been achieved through the closure of smaller schools (where additional subsidy funding was previously required) and school staffing re-organisations. Further

savings are likely to be realised when consolidation of sites is fully implemented and the economies of scale should, in particular, facilitate savings in management, administration and premises budgets. Work will be undertaken with schools to capture the level of savings achieved as the re-organisation phase continues. In addition, other non-cashable savings, such as specialist teaching expertise being shared and families being able to access support from one place are further benefits.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams

Date: 03/10/19

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report. Individual projects referred to in the report, such as the review of post 16 provision, will give rise to specific legal issues which will be covered in reports at future meetings.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 25/10/2019

