

SCHOOLS FORUM HIGH NEEDS MONITORING SUB-GROUP

Hummersknott Academy

Thursday 3rd October 12.00 – 2.00 pm

AGENDA

Item No.	Item	Paper	Decision required?	Lead
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies Declaration of business interests Any Other Business		No	Chair
2	Minutes of meeting held on 20 th June 2024 and matters arising And Minutes summary for approval for Schools Forum	Yes	No	Chair
3	Forward Work Programme	No	Yes	Jo Littler
4	Membership Update	No	No	Jo Littler
5	Resource Base Update	No	No	Jo Littler
6	Outreach Review Update	No	No	Jo Littler
7	Meeting Schedule/next meeting (below)	No	No	Chair
8	Any other business			Chair

Dates of meetings 2024/25 – Hummersknott Academy

- Thursday 5th December 12-2pm
- Thursday 16th January 3-5pm
- Thursday 13th February 2-4pm
- Thursday 3rd April 12.30-2.30pm
- Thursday 8th May 1.30-3.30pm
- Thursday 19th June 3-5pm

**Schools Forum High Needs Monitoring Sub-Group
Thursday 03 October 12-2pm
Hummersknott Academy**

Summary of Meeting

Attendees and Apologies:

Paula Ayto (Chair)	Primary Academy Vice-Chair Schools Forum	Reid Street Primary School	Attended
Alex Nelson	Primary Academy	West Park Academy	Attended
Deb Hindson	Primary Academy	Heathfield Academy	Apologies
Caroline Green	Special School	Beaumont Hill Academy & Marchbank Free School	Apologies
James Keating	Secondary Academy	Hummersknott Academy	Apologies
Sally Hudson	Maintained	Rise Carr College (PRU)	Attended
Andy Gilpin	Non School/Post 16	Darlington College	Attended
Rachel Somerville	Secondary Academy	Hurworth School	Apologies

Local Authority:

Joanne Littler	Interim Head of Service for SEND & Inclusion	Attended
Emma Clennell	Finance Manager	Attended
Helen Watson	Senior Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children/Young People and SEND	Attended
Eleanor Marshall	Education Partnerships Officer	Attended

Item No.	Item Discussion
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Register/Declaration of business interests – None</p> <p>Any Other Business – None</p>
2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 20th June 2024</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the June meeting it was noted that CAMHS should not be recommending AP provision (HHTS) and this will be raised with the team. JL updated the group that a new neuro-pathway lead will start end November. • SH updated on the transitional EBSA pilot ‘steps to secondary success’. All pupils are currently attending their current setting with some regularity. The aim is to run this project again in 2025 subject to budget agreement.

	<p>Item 4 – OT update</p> <p>Action: JL to liaise with Anne Davidson for further SENCo support. It was confirmed that Anne will invite the service to feedback on this item to SENCos.</p> <p>AOB item – WSOA</p> <p>The WSOA monitoring visit is due in October. The focus will be on key points behind schedule as opposed to a whole review. The DfE have specifically requested an update on resource base and outreach review, amongst other areas, including SEND Strategy, The Local Offer, Post 19 Offer.</p> <p>Summary of Minutes</p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes summary was suitable for the website and Schools Forum.</p>
3	<p>Membership update Membership was noted.</p>
4	<p>Resource Base Update</p> <p>The Heathfield base is open from September. DH updated that Anne D is monitoring referrals before consideration at MAPP for allocation. Two observations have been run by Heathfield – neither met criteria. It is more likely to have more applications by December. DH confirmed that there are already children to observe for 2025 Academic Year.</p> <p>Hurworth JL confirmed that capital funding is committed to the expansion of Hurworth resource base. A delivery model has been created.</p> <p>A Year 6 Place Planning Meeting with resource bases and special schools/units is going to take place. It is the strategic plan not to name secondary provision until February 2025.</p>
5	<p>Outreach Review Update</p> <p>All specifications have been refreshed for September 2024. There are no major changes proposed at this point with services. The focus however is to reaffirm the baseline in term one, obtain key case studies and impact and outcome evidence in the Autumn term. Developing a clear public domain overview as to the outreach offer, how to refer and first line responses is a key priority for the Autumn term.</p>
6	<p>Forward Work Programme</p> <p>The following areas were discussed:</p> <p>Inclusion Charter – mainstream inclusion is a priority for the LA. The Education Psychology service is supporting embedding the principles in schools, visiting individual schools relating to embedding practice in CPD, school development plans etc and in the use of the inclusion toolkit. This project to be taken forward considering regional work taking place on inclusion. The reaction to the OFSTED framework may also have an impact following ‘big listen’ and</p>

	<p>government statements. The ‘Sutton Trust map’ relating to inclusion is an identifying sign of the direction.</p> <p>SEND Ordinarily funded provision / reasonable adjustments - Co-production with parents/SENCOs on what is ordinarily funded provision will take place. This will intend to include differentiation of personalised curriculums in secondary schools and preparedness for Post 16 education.</p> <p>Supporting inclusion in mainstream for more complex needs pupils – this involves discussions on joint commissioning and funding.</p> <p>Expansion of secondary resource bases – a gap in secondary provision has been identified, expressions of interest for a new secondary resource base(s) will be released imminently. Deadline for place planning is 10th November.</p> <p>Review of all outreach services – working from baseline data and identifying current impact this piece of work will build and support earlier graduated response through the local offer through a phased approach, to training materials and podcasts. Resource and training can be developed through outreach development and resource bases.</p> <p>SEND notional budget monitoring was discussed, role of SENCOs in monitoring the budget(s) and evidence of impact.- The group agreed this would be supportive of future scrutiny by the high needs subgroup.</p> <p>Alternative Provision – this can support a review of AP to support pupils to remain in mainstream. A 3-tier model of AP is required for the LA. The review of capital funding for AP will also be included.</p> <p>Scrutiny of ‘VPP Budget’ (a high needs budget line) includes day 6 cover for primary exclusions. The LA will trial a potential pilot / trialling of 6th day provision over next 6 months. A request to review other schools’ models, where pupils are being kept out of special education e.g. for nurture provision was suggested.</p> <p>Update on Tees Valley Free School – The new build is delayed as the DfE are required to re-tender for a building contractor. The LA will ensure that Darlington are involved in joint commissioning discussions for future years to maximise impact for Darlington SEMH young people.</p> <p>Beaumont Hill expansion to 6th Form (children’s centre) – The DfE statutory consultation is live. Planning consultation is separate to the DfE process.</p> <p>It was noted that all the above projects and updates need to be included in the safety valve plan.</p>
6	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beaumont Hill Memorandum of Understanding is in place – sharing of this is being considered as a formality.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- EC confirmed that the LA has received two Safety Valve payments to date this financial year, and with prior payments received last financial Year the deficit on the High Needs Block is £2.4m.- Although we are on track with the Safety Valve programme future payments are subject to maintaining an in-year balance.
7	<p>Meeting Schedule/next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 5th December 12-2pm