

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****SCHOOLS FORUM****25<sup>th</sup> September 2014****Support Service for Special Educational Needs****Overview of SSSEN**

The Support Service for Special Educational Needs (SSSEN) work directly with pupils who have significant barriers to learning and complex learning needs and have a Statement of SEN or an EHC Plan in Primary Schools within Derbyshire. SSSEN provision is specified as the following 'Additional teaching, advice and support will be delivered in school by a teacher from the SSSEN. This will give learning opportunities on at least a weekly basis'.

All training to Primary Schools is offered as part of core SSSEN provision to meet the Stated needs of pupils.

**Potential Secondary School Developments for discussion at Schools Forum**

Over the past year vacant places available on training events, have been offered to Secondary schools and Non-maintained schools (Academies/Private Nurseries) and schools in other Local Authorities at a charge.

Secondary Schools have made numerous requests to purchase SSSEN specialist teaching support for pupils.

**Constraints:**

Whilst we have made training available where possible as above, specialist teachers employed by SSSEN are full to capacity with caseloads of primary pupils. Due to the lack of capacity we are unable to offer a traded service for teaching.

**Possible Solution and Way Forward:**

- It would be necessary for a year's support for a secondary pupil to be purchased in advance in order to make temporary staffing recruitment viable.
- For a teacher to be employed on a temporary contract for a year a guaranteed caseload of 14 pupils would be required.
- For example – approximately 140 Year 6 pupils with SSSEN support transfer annually to Year 7. To continue support for all Year 7s, then additional SSSEN Teachers would be required at a cost of £400,000.
- Top slicing the DSG to fund the above cost would result in a reduction in mainstream schools' delegated funding of around £4.20 per pupil or £10.30 per pupil if the reduction were applied to the secondary DSG share alone.

## **Potential Primary School Developments for discussion at Schools Forum**

Many Headteachers have enquired whether SSEN can provide Pupil Premium support. The Whaley Thorns SSEN team (Bolsover & North East Area) added a question on Pupil Premium to their annual Schools Questionnaire to gain a better idea of the number of schools who might want to purchase Pupil Premium support from SSEN and all schools gave a positive response.

### **Constraints:**

Currently SSEN is funded from the DSG to provide weekly specialist teaching support and advice to schools for pupils who have SSEN provision on their Statements of SEN, which will transfer to EHC Plans. In terms of statutory provision all SSEN teams have full caseloads to meet the requirements of an increasing number of pupils. Modifications to visit patterns and travel have enabled us to accommodate additional pupils but this has been maximised, so there will be no additional teaching capacity through the next year. As the teaching work is all statutory and at full capacity, we have no current SSEN staffing available to trade for Pupil Premium work.

### **Possible Solution and Way Forward:**

- Most teams have part time SSEN teachers who might be willing to provide Pupil Premium support on a supply basis, on an hourly rate.
- Only direct weekly teaching for children with SEN would be provided for Pupil Premium. This avoids any overlap with other services who have traded targets ie the Teaching and Learning Consultants, EPS and BSS.
- Costs would be in line with the above services.
- A Pupil Premium pilot project will run from January to April 2015 in the Whaley Thorns area to evaluate the potential for roll out across Derbyshire.

The views of the Schools Forum on the issues raised in this report are welcomed.