

**Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**Pre-scoping Meeting Review of Phase 3 SEN Delegated Funding**

**Venue: Social Services Room 2, Middlesex Floor, Civic Centre**

**September 7<sup>th</sup> 2004 5:30-pm**

**Attendees:** Cllrs Mitzi Green (Chair), Marie-Louise Nolan, Mary John, Janet Mote, John Nickolay, Mr. Epie, Dr. Wilson

This meeting had been arranged to help the review group identify the focus and scale of the review and to follow up the last Special Educational Needs review.

**Introduction and welcome**

Councillor Mitzi Green made introductions to councillors and co-opted members.

**Current Issues**

A presentation was made by Roger Rickman Children's Services Manager on the current issues surrounding phase 3 delegated funding for Harrow schools. His presentation is provided in Appendix A. The main points of his presentation are summarised as follows:

Harrow is roughly in the line with the national average in terms of the percentage of pupils who have statements of SEN.

In Appendix A page three, table 4 highlights that Harrow is one of the top twenty with authorities with the lowest percentage of pupils aged 5-15 in special schools in 2001.

He highlighted that Harrow wanted to have a reduced reliance on statements and that SEN statements only be reserved for complex SEN needs.

He also highlighted that a fairer distribution of SEN resources could be better attained under phase 3 delegated funding as the formula is more needs related and linked to social deprivation.

He highlighted local authorities that had implemented phase 3 delegated funding and were beacons in this area as:

Bournemouth  
Slough  
Hillingdon

## **Project planning and scoping presentation**

The members of the review group were provided with a presentation on project planning by Heather Smith, scrutiny officer for this review. This highlighted the need for members to focus on the time constraints, risks to their review and focus on key dates that will drive the review.

## **Discussion**

Members were concerned about the way in which schools consultation took place last year because the time scale was tight and asked if this process was going to be used again in the current round of consultation with schools in the autumn term.

Members were uncertain about the appeals process training for governors and if budget provision would be available. Members asked Roger Rickman stated that the SEN Disability tribunal could be used in the same way. Members discussed the following issues which they wanted to focus the review on are summarised as follows:

Delivering what children need:

- How information is passed on
- Examining the issue arising from the possible implementation of Phase 3 Delegated Funding
- Reassurance- addressing parents concerns
- Handling the transition

Consultation

- Clarity about changes
- How is it monitored?
- Equality issues

These are the key tasks for the review group:

Desktop research: Cllr Nickolay and Mitzi Green

Need to get literature from beacon authorities on how they have managed the change.

Possible evening session with information gathering and meetings to gather further evidence school governors, departmental officers, Head teachers, parents. This will need to be considered in light of evidence Members have already received from previous reviews and the nature of consultation by the LEA.

Possible visits to: Hillingdon and Slough (End Oct/Nov)