

Our reference: LRE/KR
Telephone: 020 8496 4147
Date: 11 July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

You will be aware that we have been undertaking a consultation process with regard to SEND funding, through our use of the High Needs Block (HNB) funding that we receive from the Government. This consultation ended on the 10 July 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you that have responded, either through one of the consultation meetings, through the online survey, or by contacting us directly to provide feedback. All of your responses are being collated and carefully considered, and will inform the next stages of the process, along with any final decision.

The Council very much recognises that this remains a sensitive, complex and challenging issue, and one which many Local Authorities are facing. The Council has decided to delay taking a decision on the current proposals so that further engagement can take place with key stakeholders and to allow for further dialogue with the Government regarding the funding arrangements for SEND.

Having considered the responses to the consultation received so far including feedback from our public meetings, we have decided to create a SEND Stakeholder Engagement Group. The group will discuss the funding arrangements, consider feedback from the consultation and provide feedback and ideas to further develop proposals. The intention is that members of this Group will attend three 'SEND workshops', which will be held in late July and early September (proposed dates are Wednesday 24 July 10:00-11:00am, Tuesday 3 September 3:00-5:00pm and Thursday 12 September 2:00-4:00pm).

The Group will include representatives from the LA, the SEND Parent Forum, Schools and also individual Parent/Carers who are not part of the Parent Forum. We want five representatives who are parents/carers of children with SEN to take part in this process. We will invite five representatives of Schools and two representatives from the SEND Parent Forum. If you would like to be one of the parents/carers who takes part please see below.

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Following the workshops, a report will be taken to Schools Forum in October. It is anticipated that any Council decision regarding the proposals will take place later that month.

Should any Parent/Carer wish to volunteer to be part of the SEND Stakeholder Engagement Group, they should send their request to Natasha Clayton at Natasha.clayton@walthamforest.gov.uk by Friday 19 July at 12pm.

All applicants must be prepared to attend the workshops on the dates that are being proposed. Selection of those who will be invited to take part (in the event that more than five applications are received) will be based on the needs of the group to cover the broadest range of ages and needs of our cohort of SEND young people.

Once again can I thank you for all of your engagement and responses that we have received to date. I look forward to continuing to work with you to find the best solutions for our young people and families.

Yours sincerely



Linzi Roberts-Egan
Deputy Chief Executive