

Report of the Director of Children and Families

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 19th October 2017

Subject: Cluster sustainability position statement update



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

- 1) In April 2017 the Children and Families scrutiny board received a report providing an update entitled cluster sustainability position statement.
- 2) The report noted that 31 March 2017 marked the end of the arrangement whereby school forum was able to top slice the dedicated schools budget (DSB) by 1% to create a £5.2m pot which was redistributed to clusters through a formula based on needs and pupil numbers.
- 3) During this time there were between 24 and 26 clusters given that over time some clusters merged with others and that a SILC cluster was established.
- 4) Since April 1st 2017, arrangements have come into effect as follows:
 - a. Clusters continuing as they were with all schools buying into the cluster (18 clusters)
 - b. Clusters continuing as they were but with some schools no longer buying into the cluster (2 cluster)
 - c. Possible new groupings of schools coming together to create a new cluster (1 cluster)
 - d. Clusters ceasing to operate completely with new/alternative partnership arrangements still emerging (2 clusters).
- 5) At the time of writing the future of the SILC cluster is still unknown; a meeting to make a decision is due to take place in the next couple of weeks.
- 6) The map and table included in this report provide a more detailed breakdown of these developments. It should be noted that in some instances changes are still work in

progress as some localities are working through the development of new arrangements.

- 7) At the same time as these changes have been taking place the Restorative Early Support (RES) Team model has been further developed and is in the process of being rolled out to the 7 high needs clusters which are: 2gether, JESS, Bramley, Seacroft Manston, Inner East, Beeston Cottingley Middleton and Armley.
- 8) It should also be noted that the CCGs have continued to invest in the Future in Mind strategy by funding the Mindmate single point of access and additional mental health professionals which ensures that children and young people can access mental health support through clusters.
- 9) Recommendations
 - a. That the report contents are considered and noted particularly, the developments that have taken place since 1 April 2017
 - b. That the scrutiny board notes the wide range of work currently taking place to determine the next iteration of the cluster model.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 In April 2017 the Children and Families scrutiny board received a report providing an update entitled cluster sustainability position statement. That report set out the key issues facing clusters at that time and the work being undertaken to address those issues with the intent of maintaining the integrity of the model.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Children and Families scrutiny board on:
 - 1.2.1 developments with regard to the cluster model since April 2017
 - 1.2.2 the current cluster geography (see map at appendix 1) in terms of clusters continuing to operate as they were and those where change has either happened or is still happening
 - 1.2.3 specific areas of work that are currently being undertaken which will inform the next iteration of the cluster model

2 Background information

- 2.3 The previous report noted that 31 March 2017 marked the end of the arrangement whereby schools forum was able to top slice the dedicated schools budget (DSG) by 1% to create a £5.2m pot which was redistributed to clusters through a formula based on needs and pupil numbers.
- 2.4 The arrangement came to an end due to a change in the funding formula used by the DfE which meant that 100% of funding had to be delegated to schools from 1 April 2017 onwards.
- 2.5 Since this date, a variety of models for delivering targeted early help services have emerged as indicated below. There are currently 24 clusters including the SILC cluster although it should be noted that the SILC cluster is still in the process of reviewing their position. It should also be noted that the Springwell SEHM provision is not within the cluster model as Springwell will be making its own provision for early help services.
- 3 At the same time as these changes have been taking place the Restorative Early Support (RES) Team model has been further developed and is in the process of being rolled out to the 7 high needs clusters which are: 2gether, JESS, Bramley, Seacroft Manston, Inner East, Beeston Cottingley Middleton, Armley.
- 3.6 It should also be noted that the CCGs have continued to invest in the Future in Mind strategy and the Mindmate single point of access to ensure that children and young people can access rapid mental health support. The cluster geography has been central to securing this investment as the CCGs will not fund individual schools.
- 3.7 Therefore, as at 27 September 2017 the position is as follows:

Clusters with all schools bought into continuing funding arrangements	Clusters continuing but with some schools not buying in and other changes	Possible new clusters arrangements emerging	New partnership arrangements emerging following cessation of previous arrangement
<p>2gether*</p> <p>ARM</p> <p>ACES* (Armley)</p> <p>Aireborough</p> <p>Bramley*</p> <p>Brigshaw</p> <p>EPOS</p> <p>ESNW</p> <p>Farnley</p> <p>Horsforth</p> <p>Inner East*</p> <p>Beeston, Cottingley and Middleton*</p> <p>Pudsey</p> <p>Rothwell</p> <p>Seacroft Manston*</p> <p>Temple Newsam Learning Partnership</p> <p>Garforth</p> <p>Otley</p>	<p>JESS*</p> <p>Schools out:</p> <p>Beeston St Francis of Assisi and Beeston Hill St Luke's</p> <p>Decision awaited</p> <p>Ruth Gorse academy bought in until end Sept 17 – future plans awaited</p> <p>MORLEY</p> <p>Schools in:</p> <p>Churwell, Seven Hills, Gildersome, Birchfield, Morley Victoria, St Francis, Drighlington, Fountain</p> <p>New schools joining:</p> <p>Blackgates (formerly Ardsley and Tingley)</p> <p>Schools out:</p> <p>Morley Newlands, Bruntcliffe, Morley academy</p>	<p>CATSS – comprising of schools formerly part of the Ardsley and Tingley cluster:</p> <p>East Ardsley, Westerton, Hill Top, Woodkirk</p>	<p>Inner north west – this cluster has ceased to operate as a cluster and cluster staff contracts have been terminated. Some of the schools in the cluster are in the process of forming into the Kirkstall Headingly Partnership</p> <p>OPEN XS – this cluster has ceased to operate but the functions of the cluster are being carried out by the Lantern Trust which comprises of the 5 primary schools that were formerly part of the cluster.</p>

- * denotes a high needs cluster where RES teams are in the process of being rolled out
- NB the SILC cluster are still in the process of deciding whether or not to continue operating in a partnership arrangement.

4 Main issues

- 4.8 The loss of the top slice arrangement no doubt presents a number of challenges. These need to be seen in the context of the above table which demonstrates that the vast majority of clusters are continuing as were and that in fact, schools are currently contributing approx. £4.5m to continue cluster working.
- 4.9 In addition to this there is currently a range of major reviews being undertaken to determine the shape of the model going forward including:
- 4.9.5 a review of early help
 - 4.9.6 a review of family support
 - 4.9.7 a review of cluster objectives and expectations
 - 4.9.8 a review of the cluster risk assessment to ensure that new sources of risk are identified and mitigation put in place.
- 4.10 Members of the scrutiny board are also reminded that the restorative early support (RES) team model is also in the process of being rolled out.
- 4.11 The other key factor at this stage is the impact of the new funding formula for schools, the impact of which is still uncertain or though clearly there will be winners and losers in Leeds.
- 4.12 In view of the range of work currently being undertaken it is proposed that further information is brought back to the scrutiny board once this has been completed.

5 Corporate considerations

6 Consultation and Engagement

- 6.13 Throughout the period leading up to the end of the top slicing arrangement a considerable amount of consultation was undertaken with clusters to ascertain their views and plans in terms of the way forward.
- 6.14 Further consultation and engagement is planned for the autumn term where the future of clusters will be part of the agenda of a wider conference for schools in Leeds.

7 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 7.1 The targeted early help offer provided through clusters is an essential component of supporting children, young people and families to access services at a local level and as such plays a key role in supporting community cohesion and integration.

8 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 8.1 The cluster model is an integral part of our child friendly ambition to be the best city for children and young people to grow up in.

8.2 Resources and value for money

8.2.1 Continuation of the cluster locality working model is central to the children's and families services budget strategy.

8.3 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

8.3.1 None

8.4 Risk Management

8.4.1 This report highlights the risks that the end of the top slice approach to funding poses and the steps that are being taken to mitigate them.

9 Recommendations

9.1 Recommendations are:

9.1.2 That the report contents are considered and noted particularly, the developments that have taken place since 1 April 2017

9.1.3 That the scrutiny board notes the wide range of work currently taking place to determine the next iteration of the cluster model.

9.1.4 That the scrutiny board is invited to pose any questions arising out of the report.