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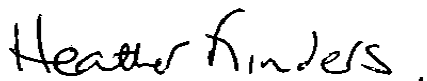
Dear Parent/Carer/Colleague,

I am writing to inform you about the latest developments in the High Needs Block/SEND consultation. As you know, this consultation ended on 9th December. I would like to thank everybody that has responded. Your views are valued, and are currently being collated, so that they can be presented in the final report.

Part of the process was for the LA to seek advice on the proposals from Schools Forum on 11th December. At this meeting, Schools Forum asked that the deadline for them to give advice be extended. As part of our partnership arrangement with Schools Forum this has been agreed. Schools Forum will now feed back to the LA after their next meeting, which is scheduled for the 15th January.

This means that the proposals will no longer be presented to Cabinet, (as planned), in January. This will now take place later in the Spring. As a consequence of this, the LA has decided to extend the consultation in line with the request from Schools Forum. Therefore the new deadline for the end of consultation is Thursday January 9th at 9am. Schools Forum also asked that the LA upload an additional document addressing some specific issues arising from the consultation responses. This will be posted on line, and sent to schools, by Friday 20th December. It is vital that Schools Forum give a clear view to the LA about the proposals.

Best Wishes



Heather Flinders
Strategic Director (DCS/DASS)