**Kent County Council**

**Review of the Local Inclusion Forum Teams**

**Rationale**

KCC has invested over £7m annually in ensuring there is specialist SEN support for mainstream schools, targeting deployment of former STLS resources and funding for outreach from special schools on a district basis, through the Local Inclusion Forum Teams (LIFT).

As part of Kent County Council’s commitment to continuous improvement, identification of the most effective practice and the transparency of the use of funding, we will be reviewing the district work of the Local Inclusion Forum Teams (LIFT) in parallel with the review of High Needs Funding. This is to ensure the totality of district funding is being efficiently utilised to meet the needs of children with SEN.

The review will include the impact of the LIFT’s work on schools’ capability to meet the needs of children with SEND and the level of transparency and satisfaction with the use of this allocated district resource by the LIFT Executive.

**Aims of the Review**

* To identify the factors which result in the most effective use of LIFT to positively impact on the capacity of schools to meet needs and enable children with SEN to make good progress.
* To ensure there are robust and collaborative multi-agency discussions and consistent allocations of staff and recommendations at LIFT meetings across Kent.
* To ensure LIFT Executives have plans, processes and details of the use of the budget in place to enable them to be accountable and transparent to the district schools.
* To identify areas for development or improvement.

**Scope of the Review**

* Impact of LIFT resources on children’s progress; achieving SEN outcomes and closing the attainment gap.
* Identification of LIFT training undertaken by schools within the last year and the impact on staff’s capacity to meet SEN needs.
* Range and frequency of professionals attending LIFT meetings.
* Levels of allocations to different specialist teachers or other professionals.
* Range and frequency of recommendations made at the LIFT meetings.
* Identification of the support provided via LIFT for children with High Needs Funding.

**Schools’ satisfaction with the:**

* interventions delivered by LIFT and impact on the schools’ capacity to meet SEND needs.
* effectiveness of the LIFT meetings to promote collaborative working and to provide advice and support.
* District’s LIFT Executive and the District Plans.

**Review Process**

* All schools (Headteachers and SenCos) will be invited via an electronic questionnaire, to provide feedback on the areas identified within the LIFT Review scope.
* Data on impact and district activity at LIFT meetings will be analysed.
* District attainment gap data will be collated.
* LIFT Executives will provide details of core membership, District Plans and summary of budget use within the district. A sample of LIFT Executive meetings will be attended.
* A sample of LIFT meetings will be attended to establish the levels of collaborative working and consistency of decision making around allocations to professionals and recommendations made.

**Timescales**

Date Activity

June/July 2017 Questionnaires sent to schools.

Sample of LIFT meetings attended.

District Execs provide information identified within scope.

August 2017 Data analysis undertaken.

Questionnaire responses collated.

August/ September 2017 Report compiled.

11 September 2017 Report presented to LIFT Strategic Board and recommendations and actions identified.

End of September 2017 Meeting with Chairs of LIFT Executives to share and agree recommendations and actions.

Autumn term Meetings with schools to share the outcomes of the High Needs Funding and LIFT review, and discuss proposed changes and improvements .