

### Update on review of SENRAP procedures from Gill Illic

In light of the School Funding Reforms & Changes to High Needs Funding Model, the Local Authority has been reviewing the procedures used at the Special Educational Needs Resource & Allocation Panel (SENRAP) to ensure that this supports the new funding model. Throughout the academic year a working party has reviewed and revised the processes used by the panel. A revised model for schools requesting Statutory Assessment and additional resources for statemented pupils has been developed in line with the new funding reforms. In early January 2013 SENCOs in the West Swindon cluster and a small number of early years settings volunteered to trial this revised model; they will report back to the working party in March when we may make some amendments before circulating the detail more widely.

We intend to issue guidance and information on the new model for applications to SENRAP during term 6. Term 6 will be used to consult on the model and trial it more widely with the view to implementing the new process for SENRAP in September 2013. Information will be made available to all settings via Schools' Online, and "drop in" surgeries will also be arranged when we can give advice and take feedback on the model.

The new process for SENRAP will include new forms for completion for requests for Statutory Assessment and for additional funding. We will be asking schools to use "descriptors of need" to summarise a child's needs and to enable SENRAP to moderate the applications. To support the new funding reform, a key requirement will be for Schools and Academies to submit requests for additional top up funding for their high needs pupils which:

- Show that £10,000 per year is already being effectively spent on the individual pupil from the notional delegated SEN budget
- Show how additional funding over £10,000 would be effectively spent on to meet the pupil's needs

Funding requests will also need to demonstrate the anticipated outcome of additional resource and how this will be achieved. This is a key change in policy and process for Special Educational Needs and is in line with current and anticipated legislation.

As these new arrangements for SENRAP will not be fully in place until September 2013, all children already receiving SENRAP funding will continue to do so, as always this should be reviewed as part of the Annual Review process. As agreed by Schools Forum the SENRAP payments have increased and are now £12 per hour for schools and £8 per hour for nurseries.

From September 2013, any new application for funding will be considered under the new arrangements.