**Report to Hartlepool Schools’ Forum 19 November 2020**

**From Penny Thompson – Head of Service, The Children’s Hub and Partnerships**

# Agenda Item 3 – Designated Education Officer Proposal Update 2021/22

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Schools’ Forum on the funding of the Designated Education Officer role (DEO) for 2021/22.

**2. Background**

2.1 The DEO post was introduced into The Children’s Hub in September 2016 and up until 2019 had been funded by Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Schools. In 2019/20 and 2020/21 it was agreed to use reserves generated from the reduced cost of the Trade Union supply cover de-delegated service to cover Hartlepool’s contribution to the post, with Stockton schools continuing their pro rata share.

2.2 At the Schools Forum meeting of the 22 October 2020, Members agreed that the Trade Union reserve be used again to fund the post for the period 2021/22.

2.3 Members also agreed that consideration be given to the need for the post to be funded permanently and if appropriate a sustainable solution to be identified.

**3. Purpose of the role**

3.1 The role of the DEO was outlined in the last Schools Forum report however in summary: ‘the purpose of the DEO post is to provide support to schools to ensure that children receive the right support at the right time. The DEO provides education expertise within the team, contributing to the assessment of referrals received. The DEO liaises with schools and interprets and shares information as necessary to safeguard and/ or promote the welfare of children.’

3.2 Given funding has been identified for the period 2021/22, the Head of Service for the Children’s Hub could provide quarterly reports on the role, its activity and impact to Schools Forum members allowing greater consideration before decisions are made for the financial year 2022/23 and beyond.

**4. Costings**

4.1 Schools Forum agreed to fund the role from the Trade Union reserve for 2021/22 but that contributions should be requested from both early years and further education sectors, thereby reducing the cost on the reserve from £17,835 to £15,660. This reflects the agreement by Stockton on Tees Council to continue to fund the role at 66%.

**5. Recommendations**

5.1 Schools Forum is asked to:

* + Confirm the need for quarterly update reports on the role
  + Note the revised cost on the Trade Union reserve for 2021/22