
RESOURCE BASE PROVISION

Purpose of the Report

1. To update schools on the implementation of the monitoring and review of Resource Bases and panel process.
2. As highlighted at the March meeting, it was raised that a review of places in the summer term would take place. Therefore this paper will update School Forum on the current position relating to High Needs placements in resource bases.

Progress To Date

3. The decision making panel for resource bases was put into place for the 2015/16 Academic Year. Schools are required to make applications for resource bases on a termly basis to enable the panel to ensure that the most appropriate children receive a place.
4. Including the next panel (24th May) 10 applications will have been made and approved in 2015/16 compared to 18 applications and 16 places approved¹ in 2014/15. There may be cases where emergency requests are made to the Panel but these should be few and far between.
5. In the circumstance where a base does not have any requests for approval, the resource base manager should still attend to update the panel on progress outcomes. When attendance at the scheduled panel is not possible, managers should ensure that an appropriate member of staff provides cover, as opposed to cancelling attendance.
6. The panel has discussed how to monitor progress to outcomes 'without levels' and bases have been asked to measure on age related expectations. In 2015/16 bases have been using various means of recording, but this needs to be consistent in 2016/17. A monitoring form has been provided for this purpose (the 'pupil plan') and this can be amended by the base manager as appropriate.
7. For 2016/17 panels, resource base staff will be asked to complete some simple paperwork to be provided to panel members prior to the meeting. This will give panel members time to evaluate progress of pupils and movement into and out of the provision.
8. As with the multi-agency panel for EHC assessments, there is a strong emphasis on ensuring the paperwork submitted by schools is of the right kind and quality. If checklists are followed and paperwork is submitted by the right dates, informed decisions can be made that are right for the child.
9. Deadline dates are set in advance and SENCO's are reminded regularly of these and guidance is available in the SEN information and guidance file. A revised checklist is now available which outlines the details required by the panel. This will be re-emphasised at a future network meeting.
10. As a result of the year's monitoring, the annual review meetings in June/July 2016 will consider how effectively the bases (and outreach services including the Low Incidence Needs service)

¹ In one of these cases a child receives intensive outreach support.

have communicated their service(s) to schools; monitored pupil progress (attainment and social development); sought feedback from parents/carers; self-evaluated delivery; developed provision; and kept an up to date database of schools and individual children and young people who receive outreach (where appropriate), together with the type and level of support they receive. Service level agreements for delivery in 2016/17 will be re-issued before the end of the term.

11. Next year bases will be required to undertake a self-evaluation. This will concentrate on how the bases (and outreach services) score themselves against vision and strategy, operational framework, quality of service, impact on service.
12. An evaluation of the bases and outreach services is underway in order to consider the extent to which children's needs have been met and how well outcomes are improving. Bases are considering case studies, and collating case files comprised of pupil plans, targets, outcomes, and associated paperwork eg One Plan, EHC Plan/Statement as appropriate so that these can be available for the Local Authority on request to evaluate how well records track the needs and support.

Places

13. It is expected that the actual number of places in September 2016 will be as below.

Base	Funded Places	Actual Summer Term 2015/16	Expected Autumn Term 2016/17
Heathfield (Complex Needs/Cognition & Learning)	16	12	11/12*
Hurworth (ASD)	14	14	14
Mount Pleasant (ASD/Social Communication)	20	20	19
Northwood (Speech and Language)	9	8	4/5*

*subject to assessments

14. In respect to the Northwood Speech and Language base, staff have been raising the awareness of how the base can meet children's needs, however, the demand for the base from schools appears to be low. The Local Authority need to work with the base, and the NHS Trust and undertake consultation with schools in order to predict speech and language needs in Darlington. This will inform work to model the most appropriate use of funding to meet future need. Similarly an analysis of the needs surrounding cognition and learning is required. The work of the Beaumont Hill outreach service will need to feature in this. Similarly an overall review of BESD including ASD is to be undertaken by the Local Authority.
15. All bases work with the Local Authority to identify future needs, for example, as raised at a previous Forum, there will be a cohort of five Year 6 children at Mount Pleasant which would leave a significant number of vacant places if not filled by Spring Term 2017.
16. In respect to any changes to places at any base, the DFE will need to be notified of any changes for 2017/18 by around Christmas 2016. Therefore this term's monitoring visits and the annual review are key in order to review the demand for 2017/18. Schools will be given a full two terms of notice of any changes from September 2017/18.

Recommendation

17. To note the ongoing activity and specifically the position of the speech and language base.

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