
HIGH NEEDS BUDGET AND SEN PLACEMENTS

Purpose of the Report

1. To discuss current position of the High Needs Budget and SEN placements position. A summary of budget is included at Appendix A.

Background

2. Whilst the DSG budget is a finite amount, historically money has been moved between the blocks with no impact on the other budgets. In the past two years the High Needs budget has been allocated more funding than the original EFA allocated block and this trend is increasing.
3. The Forum will note that the High Needs budget is currently ‘subsidised’ by £893,223 (excluding £651,960 moved to implement the £6,000 threshold) from the schools block with no adverse impact on schools.
4. Special and alternative provision requirements for 2016/17 is to the value of £3,362,033 a small increase of £12,316 over 2015/16.

Special Provision	Description	2015/16	2016/17
Marchbank	Top ups/Place	216,000	328,333
BHA Pre-16	Top ups	1,798,750	1,668,894
BHA Post-16	Top ups	203,419	207,225
Sub Total		2,218,169	2,204,452
Alternative Provision	Description		
Home & Hospital		310,991	337,024
Rise Carr College	Top ups	453,890	420,557
	Places	366,667	400,000
Sub Total		1,131,548	1,157,581
Grand Total		3,349,717	3,362,033

Resource Base and Outreach Services - Budget Summary

5. The Resource Bases completed an income and expenditure analysis which indicates that with the exception currently at Heathfield, if all the top up budget is spent, then resource bases expenditure is over the income received. The Heathfield base has 4 KS2 places available from January 2016, however this position may change over the Academic Year.
6. As reported in agenda item 4, there is an overspend within the outreach budget for Hurworth school, however the service is not asking for additional funding from the School

Forum. The request for additional funding (in agenda item 10) is to address the need for co-ordination support.

7. The LINS budget is also overspent due to the changes required to provision for VI teaching and in order to provide appropriate IT equipment for staff, however the service is not asking for additional funding from the School Forum. It should be noted that due to the past year of evaluation and monitoring, the service has required improvement, and processes and systems being put into place should benefit in the longer term.

Out of Borough SEN Placements

8. There are currently:

- 22 Out of borough placements under £50,000 (average of £13,394 per child)
- 8 Out of borough placements over £50,000 (average of £88,000 per child)

Conclusions

9. Over the last few years more expenditure has been made against high needs as more places have been commissioned at special schools and there is an increase in individually assigned top ups within mainstream schools and resource base place demands.
10. This increase in spend has been managed within the overall budget with no adverse effect on school budgets, however expenditure has continued to increase.
11. Services to schools have been reviewed and are subject to monitoring procedures and analysis of budget spend. As previously reported in October 2014, it cannot be assumed on a year-on-year position that the budgets or delivery of services will remain the same.
12. As placement requests and reliance on outreach services grow the pressure makes the feasibility of running these services within current budgets increasingly difficult without additional support from the schools or high needs budget.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that:-
 - Forum note the high needs budget position

Eleanor Marshall
School Forum Monitoring & Support Officer