

## **Transition Funding to support YPSS devolution**

### **Background**

Discussions with lawyers at the DfE have recently made it clear that the Power to Innovate cannot be applied retrospectively. This means that schools cannot be asked to take back and assume responsibility for students that they have already permanently excluded before the Power To Innovate comes into effect. As a result Wiltshire will remain responsible for those students who have already been permanently excluded and will therefore have to make provision for them.

### **Proposal**

For the LA to make direct provision by continuing a slimmed down form of YPSS would undermine the whole direction of current developments. Such a service is likely to be expensive and not cost effective because it would probably need to be maintained in all the four geographical areas. It would so significantly reduce the money available to schools for preventative work that it would make it difficult to undertake effective preventative work. It seems, therefore, more logical to commission provision from schools and other providers. To top slice the devolved money to pay for this provision would again significantly reduce the amount of money available for schools to do preventative work and so undermine the impact of the project. Rather than making a request for funding to cover start up costs it is, therefore, proposed that School's Forum put in an extra £400,000 to cover the transition cost of making provision for students who have already been permanently excluded for the academic year 2012-2013. This is less than the figure of £500,000 discussed at the last full meeting of the School's Forum.

The figure of £400,000 is based on the following calculation.

- There are currently 27 permanently excluded students in Year 10 although this number could increase.
- The average cost of YPSS equivalent provision across the UK is £15,000 per student per year.
- For 27 students this would be £405,000.

The cost of provision for challenging young people can vary enormously from £5,000 per year to £27,000 and above. Taking an average cost is being conservative. It does not include the additional cost to the LA of monitoring the effectiveness of the provision which it will need to do as it now retains responsibility for their education. This proposal will enable the project to continue with maximum impact whilst securing provision for those young people who have already been permanently excluded.

**YPSS underspend**

YPSS is expected to end the current financial year with an underspend. This is largely due to posts that were vacant for a period of time and it has been agreed that this underspend will be earmarked to contribute towards the cost of any redundancies following the closure of the service.

It is possible that the service may continue to underspend between April and August. This is still to be quantified as some vacant posts have now been filled and if other staff leave, replacing them with agency staff could be expensive. At the same time once Year 11 have finished it may be possible to reduce the numbers of agency or other casual employees. If Schools' Forum were to grant some transition funding it could be done on the basis that any underspend from YPSS at the end of August could return to Schools' Forum for reallocation. This should mean that the actual amount being put in by Schools' Forum will be less and that it would have additional money to allocate later. The amount of underspend should be clear by the beginning of July.