

SEN Mainstream Recoupment

Purpose of report

1. To notify Schools Forum of an anomaly in the funding of Named Pupil Allowances (NPAs) for out of county pupils in Wiltshire mainstream schools and to make proposals for the resolution of this issue.

Main considerations for School Forum

2. NPA payments are made to schools in support of a statement of special educational needs for individual pupils. In Wiltshire the NPA is described in terms of a number of "hours" support. For primary schools the first 10 hours defined in any statement are already considered to be delegated to the school and so the NPA is only paid for hours over and above the first 10. For secondary school NPAs are paid for hours over and above the first 15.
3. For pupils from outside Wiltshire schools are paid the full hours for each statement and this is recouped from the host local authority. This means that schools are not funded consistently for out of county pupils compared with the funding they receive for Wiltshire pupils.
4. It is proposed that this anomaly should be removed from the system in order that all pupils with special educational needs are funded consistently. Appendix 1 illustrates the funding currently received by mainstream schools for NPAs for out of county pupils and the funding they would receive in NPAs if those pupils are funded consistently with Wiltshire pupils. Because the pupils are on the roll of the school the first 10/15 hours is allocated through the funding formula.
5. It is clear from the appendix that there would be a significant impact on a small number of schools of changing the funding system. A number of options have therefore been considered:
 - a. To change the arrangement and bring funding in to line for all pupils from April 2012;
 - b. To change the arrangement and bring funding in to line for all pupils from September 2012 to give schools more time to plan for the change;
 - c. To continue with the current arrangement for this cohort of pupils whilst in their current schools but to fund all future out of county pupils consistently with the arrangements for Wiltshire pupils.
6. To implement the change for April would bring significant change to the budgets of a small number of schools at very short notice. The risk of this

approach is that schools would not be able to plan for the reduction in funding.

7. This issue was considered by the SEN Working Group on 24th February and the recommendation of the group was that the third option should be adopted in order to minimise the impact on individual schools.

Proposal

8. That Schools Forum agree:
 - a. That funding for all pupils with special educational needs should be in accordance with the Wiltshire formula and therefore out of county pupils should be funded on a consistent basis with Wiltshire pupils;
 - b. How the change in funding should be implemented – options a) to c) in paragraph 5 above.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director

Report author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance
01225 713675
Elizabeth.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Summary of Mainstream Recoupment NPAs by school