

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

12th November 2015

Funding of Additional High Needs 'place' funding - 2016-17 onwards

Purpose of report

1. To provide Schools Forum with options and proposals for the funding of additional High Needs places for 2016-17 onwards.

High Needs Place Funding – Current Position

2. The funding of High Needs within Resource Bases and ELP provisions is broken down into two elements;
 - 'place' funding and
 - 'top up' funding
3. Place funding provides institutions with a guaranteed budget for the year that gives them a degree of financial stability, despite the actual number of pupils not always matching the number of places. Places should not be reserved for a specific pupil.
4. Top-up funding is that which is required over and above place funding, to enable a pupil or student with high needs to participate in education and learning. Top up funding will always follow a child and is paid to schools on a month by month basis.
5. Resource Bases and ELP provisions are funded based upon an agreed numbers of places between the school and the LA. These types of provision are funded from the High Needs block and not the Schools block.
6. As a result, the number of pupils aged under 16 on which the schools funding formula for the mainstream school is based, excludes the number of pupils in either the Resource Base or ELP provision.
7. The schools funding is therefore based upon the actual number of pupils on roll (NOR), less the number of places in either the Resource Base or ELP provision. The total amount of AWPU (per pupil) funding awarded to the school will be reduced by the number of its planned High Needs places.
8. All planned places are funded at £10,000 per place and these form part of the schools Funding Certificate, issued either by the LA to maintained schools or the EFA, where the school is an Academy. The table below

sets out the current funding for a school of 1,000 pupils with 25 High Needs places.

	Pupils	Funding	Total
Total NOR	1,000		
High Needs Places	25	£10,000	£250,000
Net NOR for funding	975	£4,000	£3,900,000
TOTAL			£4,150,000

9. The current position adopted by the LA is to fund schools who exceed their current level of planned places. These additional places are funded at £10,000 per place, with the relevant top up value also paid.
10. A number of schools are regularly exceeding their number of planned places and are receiving the additional £10,000 for each extra place, per annum. In some cases a school may temporarily exceed its planned number of places and in other cases the number has historically been exceeded.
11. Due to the funding regulations, the LA has been unable to amend the number of planned places within schools, over recent years, which has compounded the issue.
12. The report below set out two scenarios;
 - Scenario 1 – Where a pupil moves from mainstream into High Needs
 - Scenario 2 – Where a pupil moves from a High Needs setting in School 1 to the High Needs setting in School 2

Scenario 1 – Child moves from Mainstream into ELP – High Needs Place Funding Review of Methodology

13. The paying of £10,000 per additional place is resulting in schools being over funded for the additional High Needs place.
14. Where a pupil forms part of the NOR at a school, the school is provided with the AWPU funding for the pupil. If that pupil subsequently is assessed as a High Needs pupil and needs to be moved into a Resource Base or ELP provision, then where the school has empty places, the school will only receive additional top up funding, not additional place funding.
15. If that pupil were to result in the school exceeding its number of High Needs places, then the school should be entitled to additional place funding.

16. However, as the school will already have received AWPU funding for the particular pupil, to award an additional £10,000 of place funding would result in the school being overfunded by the value of the AWPU. This scenario is exactly the same if a school has historically exceeded its number of planned places and continues to do so, by 1 pupil from the start of the year.
17. The table below sets out the position;

	Original Position	Additional HN Pupil	Proposed Methodology
Total NOR	1,000	1,000	1,000
High Needs Places	25	26	26
Net NOR for funding	975	975	974
TOTAL NOR FUNDED	1,000	1,001	1,000

18. The school would be currently funded for the pupil and additional place as follows;

Funding	Amount
Original AWPU Funding	£4,000
Additional Place Funding	£10,000
Total Funding for Pupil and Place	£14,000

(excludes any top up funding)

19. The correct funding calculation for the pupil would result in only the additional place funding being paid, calculated as below;

Funding	Amount
Original AWPU Funding	£4,000
Additional Place Funding	£10,000
Less: AWPU already funded	(£4,000)
Total Funding for Pupil and Place	£10,000

(excludes any top up funding)

20. The current number of additional places being funded across Wiltshire, at October 2015 stands at 34 places, which are in essence being over-funded.

Scenario 2 – Child moves from ELP at School 1 to ELP at School 2 – High Needs Place Funding Review of Methodology

21. Wiltshire Schools Forum has always supported the principle of 'the money following the child' - a principle of enabling the High Needs funding to follow the child in order to meet their individual needs.
22. In the situation where a child transfers from one secondary school ELP provision to another secondary school ELP provision, which then exceeds its number of planned places, then the £10,000 (pro-rata) funding would follow the child.
23. The funding of the additional place would be administered centrally by the LA as part of the top ups process and therefore schools would not be required to apply for the additional funding.

Proposal

24. Schools Forum is asked to note the content of the report.
25. Schools Forum is asked to give consideration to implementing the revised methodology for the funding of additional places from April 2016-17.

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