

Exceptional Numbers of Statements Formula

Purpose of report

1. To outline the current formula for funding schools where there is an exceptional number of statements/EHCP's in a school and the associated implications for the High Needs budget, costs, along with proposals for the future funding of this factor.

Background

2. Wiltshire has for a number of years recognised that some schools attract a higher proportion of pupils with statements/EHCP's than others. The formula provides additional funding to schools where the number of statemented pupils is equivalent to 3.5% of the school population (based on the October census).
3. The exceptional statements/EHCP's funding is paid from the High Needs Block and does not form part of the Wiltshire funding formula. The exceptional statement/EHCP funding is made in accordance with the High Needs Operational Guidance.
4. The Schools Funding Working Group (SFWG) has previously given consideration to the funding of exceptional statements/EHCP's, due to the increasing number of schools entitled to the funding, leading to the factor no longer being deemed 'exceptional'.

Year-on-Year Position

5. The funding for this factor has grown over the last four financial years and the table below sets out the numbers of schools entitled to the funding and the amounts awarded annually.

Year	Schools Entitled	Total Awarded
2012/13	2	£20,309
2013/14	8	£34,914
2014/15	8	£45,817
2015/16	14	£151,812

6. As the factor is for 'exceptional' numbers of pupils with statements/EHCP's, 3.5% of pupils with a statement in a school can no longer be deemed exceptional. In addition, the cost pressures in the High Needs Block do not allow for the expenditure to increase indefinitely.
7. As the current position cannot be sustained, SFWG were consulted with regard to the mechanism of the formula in its current guise to ensure that the formula was fit for purpose and helped address the actual need within schools.

Schools Funding Working Group Proposals

8. At the May 2016 meeting of the SFWG, it had been suggested that looking at statemented pupils across the whole school population may not be the most appropriate method and that considering the statements/EHCP's by year group may be more appropriate.
9. A particular bulge in one year group with a high number of statemented pupils could be masked by the wider school population. SFWG requested that additional analysis be undertaken to look at the number of statements/EHCP's by year group, for each school as allocating funding using the individual year.
10. After giving consideration to the level of future funding for this factor, it was agreed that capping the amount awarded would be appropriate in order to provide certainty regarding the level of funding and commitment from the High Needs Block.
11. Modelling of the number of instances where schools had individual classes exceeding the 3.5% threshold for statemented pupils was presented to SFWG, along with options of 5%, 10%, 15% and 20%. The results are summarised below in the table, based upon the application of a total cap of £100,000.

	3.5%	5%	10%	15%	20%
No. of Schools Entitled	148	109	34	12	7
Range of Funding	£10 - £4,473	£42 - £6,285	£303 - £12,791	£1,723 - £18,092	£6,452 - £29,032

12. The recommendation of the SFWG was for the exceptional statements/EHCP's formula to allocate funding as follows;
 - where more than 10% of pupils in any year group have a statement/EHCP
 - a cap of £100,000 on the amount to be paid in any one year
 - no de-minimus level so even amounts of less than £1,000 should still be paid
 - pupils in Resource Bases / ELP provisions to be excluded from formula
 - the October census be used for performing the calculation each year

Proposal

13. It is proposed that:

a) Schools Forum note the content of the report

b) The formula for allocating funding for 'exceptional number of statements/EHCP's' be amended for 2016-17, as detailed in Para. 12 above.

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