

## **Analysis of Independent Provision Spend**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Schools Forum on the work undertaken to analyse ISS/P activity and spend.

### **Main Considerations**

#### **Post 16 SEN Placement Activity and Spend**

2. There has been a significant reduction in independent specialist Post 16 placement (ISP) spend, alongside a significant increase in the number of post 16 learners (as a consequence of the reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014);
  - a. Increase in no's of post 16 learners
    - 57% increase since 13/14 (247 to 388 learners)
  - b. Spend decreased by 30% from £6.2M - £4.4.M between 13/14 and 15/16
    - Projecting another 17% decrease (16/17), savings of £2.6M
3. How has this been achieved?
  - a. Outcomes based commissioning (developing FE offer)
  - b. Introduced banded funding across all FE colleges & several ISPs
  - c. Increase in learners attending FE colleges (rather than ISPs)
    - 119% increase, decrease of 52% attending ISP
      - ISP: 67 – 32 learners (16/17), residential 43 – 12 places
  - d. Negotiated decreases in ISP fees (more local competition)
    - From average of £56k to average of £24k per learner
4. Increase of 57% in learner numbers<sup>1</sup>, decreased spend by ~47%. It can be done but it takes time (avoiding, not moving, placements) and we needed to have the local provision – we didn't, but we do now.

#### **Analysis of Independent Provision spend:**

5. Current position (Dec 2016)
  - a. ~ £7.150M on ISS/ISP; £5.3M DSG funded <sup>2</sup>
  - b. ~115 children and young people with SEND placed.

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<sup>1</sup> Following both RPA and SEND Reforms

<sup>2</sup> Please note all figures are full year costs (not actuals)

- c. Rate of growth in ISS had been slowed, but this masked by a rise in average costs. Growth now evident, albeit slower.
  - d. As set out above, there has been a good reduction in Post 16 ISP placements, but placements are historic – once placed in ISS hard to move young person into FE or cheaper ISP.
6. In order to understand why we place CYP in ISS/P we undertook a detailed analysis of all current placements; 9 different reasons identified.
- a. Complex and Require Residential, or just unusually complex
  - b. Case Law
  - c. Moved into area with placement (or ex Stanbridge Earls)
  - d. No available places (but technically we could have met need locally)
  - e. Tribunal loses (but LA view that we could have met need)
  - f. Distance to travel tribunal loses (but LA view that we could have met need)
  - g. No appropriate places commissioned locally
  - h. Local schools couldn't meet need (but LA view that with minor adaptations perhaps could have)
  - i. Miscellaneous
7. Complex and Require Residential, or unusually complex
- a. 23 cyp. DSG Spend = £1.7M
 

– Complex ASD =	£1.5M (9)
– Complex SEMH =	£630k (6)
– SLD=	£547k (4)
– SLCN (SEMH)=	£94k (1)
– PMLD=	£208k (1)
– ASD/SLD=	£177k (1)
– ASD/PD/VI=	£79k (1)
  - b. Commissioning response: We could meet need locally for some of these cyp, if we were able to secure an appropriate children's home, with or without education facility. Potential for savings to both LA and HNB budgets. Would require capital and could be part of longer term plan.
8. Case Law
- a. 21 cyp. £338.5k
 

– ASD =	£42k (3)
– SEMH=	£18k (1)
– SLCN=	£51.5k (3)
– SpLD=	£193k (12)
– SpLD/MLD=	£33k (2)
  - b. Commissioning response: Case law has now changed and we expect to see a significant reduction in ISS placements for this reason over time. Need to monitor numbers to ensure this is case. Would be a useful exercise to understand why parents did not think local provision could meet needs, particularly for SpLD – is there a need to re-shape/ improve local practice?
9. Moved in with placement (or ex Stanbridge Earls)
- a. 11 cyp. £359k
  - b. Commissioning response: little we can do about this, difficult to move placements once established. Stanbridge Earls cyp placed in emergency.

10. No available places (but technically we could have met need)

a. 4 cyp. £176k

b. Commissioning response: Most surprising category, the narrative has been we don't have enough places hence we place independently. Of these 4 cyp, a decision was taken not to place 2 of them (in available places) to support a local special school in difficulty. One other pupil could not be placed in the only appropriate designated special school because of family links to other pupils.

11. Tribunal loses (but LA view that we could have met need)

a. 8 cyp. £311k

- 3 cyp SLCN at secondary
- 2 cyp ASD parental preference (at time S/F inadequate)
- 3 cyp various – tribunal ruled for continuation of pre 16 placement

b. Commissioning response: Difficult to predict Tribunal outcomes, balance seems to be in favour of parents regardless of cost and capacity to meet need. However we could look at how we can secure more parental confidence in local secondary schools capacity to meet SALT needs.

12. Distance to travel Tribunal loses (but we could have met need otherwise)

a. 15 cyp. £757k

- 3 cyp ASD £299k
- 2 cyp SEMH £179k
- 1 cyp SLCN £52.5k
- 1 cyp PD £46k
- 1 cyp SpLD £16.5k
- 6 cyp HI £164k

b. Commissioning response: lost 6 tribunals because our SS provision for ASD and SEMH single school (so no provision in some parts of county). Costs ~£350k could have been avoided. Other big issue is only HI unit for secondary schools is in North (Sheldon). Need to secure provision in South or develop peripatetic service.

13. No appropriate places commissioned

a. 17 cyp. £1.2M

- 10 cyp KS1&2 SEMH £686k
- 4 cyp SEMH Girls £365k
- 3 cyp PD/HI £102k

b. Commissioning response: This is a big category, reflecting changing need. Have gone to consultation on changing Downland from single sex to co-ed, change effective in September 2017. Developing KS1 and KS2 SEMH provision biggest priority which, given HNB budget constraints, we have not been able to address. PD/HI – low incidence and unlikely that we will ever be able to secure cost effective local provision.

14. Local schools couldn't meet need (but LA view that with minor adaptations perhaps could have?)

a. 7cyp. £382k

- 2 cyp SEMH £48k
- 5 cyp ASD £340k

- b. Commissioning response: Need to explore these cases with SS to understand whether, with minor funded adaptations, we could have retained locally so that local provision can be enhanced.

#### 15. Miscellaneous

- a. 8 cyp. £380k

- Largest placement cost for pupil is £112k – where physical adaptations to local school far outweighed the cost of specialist provision. Rest of costs mostly relate to On Track provision.

- b. Commissioning response: not much can be done here to reduce spend.

### **Conclusion**

- 16. Have shown that, where able, we can re-shape local provision to better meet need locally, and reduce cost. We have now to ensure that we can re-shape and support specialist provision (mostly in special schools) to meet more needs locally – where appropriate, and with additional support where needed – to reduce spend, invest locally, and improve life chances for children and young people with SEND.

- 17. This work (previously called Seizing the Agenda, now Wiltshire Area Special Schools Partnership Proposal - WASSPP) continues with our special schools. A final report from this project is expected Mid May.

### **Proposals**

- 1. Schools Forum is asked to note this report.

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