

**School Funding Reform**

**High Needs Formula Review Group**

**20 November 2012, 1pm, Mompesson Meeting Room, County Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Jan Ball, Michael Keeling, Phil Cooch, Trystan Williams, Mandy Cole, Phil Cook, Liz Williams

Apologies, Hannah Knight, John Foster

	Item	Action
1	<p><b>Update on School Funding Reform</b></p> <p>EW updated the group on the progress made to date on implementing funding reform for high needs provision both within Wiltshire and across other SW authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial modelling of top up rates is being based on 2012-13 funding levels and place/pupil numbers. Once principles are agreed then the top ups can be updated for 13-14 planned place numbers and final funding levels</li> <li>• At a regional finance meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November the Education Funding Agency (EFA) had confirmed that Wiltshire's understanding of the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for high needs provision is correct, ie., that protection is applied to individual top up rates and not the overall 12-13 budget</li> <li>• For SEN funding allocated through the mainstream formula (High Incidence, Low Cost SEN) most LAs in the SW have applied the EFA recommendation of delegating the equivalent of the first £6,000 of provision (in Wiltshire this equates to first 15 hours), Bournemouth have delegated less than £6k, Bristol have delegated more.</li> <li>• It has been agreed that regionally we will apply the principle that there is no automatic right to an additional £10k for an additional place. EFA confirmed that this is their expected approach and that the £10k is about stability of funding not about funding for individual pupils.</li> <li>• In terms of time scales it is expected that the funding settlement, including the amount for the high needs block, for 2013-14 will be announced in mid to late December. Funding amounts for top ups for different bands will therefore need to be presented to the January Schools Forum meeting for approval.</li> </ul>	EW
2	<p><b>Calculation of Top-up values and associated issues</b></p> <p>PC presented the current work on modelling top up values. The main issues discussed were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Special Schools</b> <i>Specialism funding</i> – following the meeting held with Head Teachers in October PC had modelled 3 options in relation to specialism funding and whether it should be included within the overall budget for top-ups. Following discussion it was agreed to</li> </ul>	



	<p>special schools above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cashflow – payment schedules. EW confirmed that the financial regulations will require schools to be paid monthly, this will include payments from other LAs for out of county pupils. Payment schedules will need to be drawn up to determine the dates of payments and the dates at which any adjustments for starters or leavers will be made.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Interauthority Recoupment</b></p> <p>Where pupils from other LAs are being placed in mainstream schools LAs in the SW have agreed that they will top up over and above £6k regardless of what the host authority has delegated to its schools.</p> <p>SW LAs have also agreed that in the first year they will honour the top up value of the LA maintaining the school in which the pupil is placed. This will give consistency of approach to schools.</p>	
5	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Post-16 pupils in schools – EW noted that from April 2013 post 16 pupils in high needs provision will be funded through the 16-19 national funding formula for the first two elements of funding, with the LA paying the top up. This means schools will receive the equivalent of the first £10k direct from the EFA for each planned place identified as a post-16 place. The EFA will be issuing shadow allocations to schools, based on 12-13 numbers, in late November.</p>	

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