

SPECIAL SCHOOL TOP UP RATES 2014-15

Purpose of the Report

1. To recommend top up values for special schools in 2014-15.

Background

2. Top up rates for special schools have not yet been agreed for 2014-15.
3. In October 2013 Schools Forum agreed revised top up rates for special schools for 2013-14. Before the higher rate could be confirmed for 2014-15 it has been necessary to confirm whether the rates are affordable in the new year.

Main Considerations

4. It is proposed that day and residential top up rates for special schools continue at the current rate:

	Day	Residential
Band 1+	£ 18,054	£ 54,508
Band 1	£ 12,361	£ 40,250
Band 2	£ 9,514	£ 33,122
Band 3	£ 6,668	£ 25,993
Band 4	£ 2,814	£ 16,342
Band 5	£ 485	£ 10,060

Financial Implications

5. The increase in top up rates had an overall cost of £0.703m in 2013-14. This led to an overspend of £0.498m against the special school top up budget which was funded from underspends against the top up budgets for Resource Bases and ELP.
6. Following the review of Resource Bases and the subsequent changes to top up values for Resource Bases and ELP it is not anticipated that these budgets will underspend in 2014-15.
7. It is estimated that the proposed changes to residential provision in Downlands school in 2014-15 will reduce the cost of residential top ups by £0.098m. It is proposed that the remaining shortfall is transferred from the budget for Independent Special School places.

Proposals

8. Schools Forum is asked to agree the proposed top up rates for special schools in 2014-15.

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