

Outcome of Banding Moderation for Special Schools & Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) – Financial Implications

Purpose of report

1. To consider the financial implications arising from the banding moderation for Special Schools and for Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) in secondary schools.

Background

2. A banding moderation exercise takes place each year to assess the needs of pupils within special schools and also in receipt of ELP. The financial implications of the moderation process need to be taken in to account in the setting of the budget for the following year.
3. The banding moderation process for special schools was agreed by Schools Forum in June 2010. The process for ELP follows a similar methodology and both are based on peer moderation.
4. From 2011/12 it is also proposed that resource bases in mainstream schools be funded on the basis of a moderated banding exercise. There is a separate paper on this agenda outlining the proposals but again it is based on a consistent methodology. This means that from 2011/12 all specialist provision will be moderated in a consistent way.

Main considerations for Schools Forum

5. The outcome of the banding moderation for special schools is shown in Appendix 1. The banding reflects the outcome of the moderation exercise, a reduction of 3 planned places in Larkrise school and the new relative band values agreed by Schools Forum in June 2010.
6. The outcome of the moderation exercise on place funding is a reduction in overall cost for special schools of £12,885 compared with 2010/11.
7. Appendix 2 shows the overall change in funding required for special schools in 2011/12 taking in to account the effect of transition from 2010/11 being removed from the budget and the effect of the banding moderation on funding for residential places. This is summarised in Appendix 3 for clarity.
8. Once transition and residential costs are taken in to account the overall cost of special schools for 2011/12 is £46,497 lower than in the current year.
9. Overall numbers of pupils requiring ELP are unchanged although the mix between bands 1 and 2 has changed as a result of the moderation. A summary of the cost implications is shown in Appendix 4. The appendix shows that the banding moderation is cost neutral (additional cost of

£2,000) but that there are increases and reductions across individual schools.

Environmental impact of the proposal

10. None

Equalities impact of the proposal

11. None – this paper focuses on funding issues.

Financial implications

12. Outlined within the report.

Legal implications

13. None arising from this report

Proposal

14. Schools Forum are asked to note the financial implications of the banding moderation exercise for special schools and ELP.

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Background papers

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:
None

Appendices

Appendix 1 –
