

DSG Update from Wiltshire Virtual School for Schools' Forum

December 2018

For financial year 2018/19, £102,800 was allocated to the Virtual School from the DSG budget, this was to provide fulltime alternative education for the small number of Looked After Young People who do not have an EHCP or receive education as part of a Care Package but cannot manage within a mainstream setting. The amount was reduced by £100,000 from 2017/18 to reflect the increase in pupil premium from April 2018.

The increase has been allocated to schools as part of the universal support, funding for Looked After Young People who are on a school roll but require extra support to maintain their school place is now provided from the top sliced Pupil Premium Grant.

There continues to be a small number of Wiltshire Young People who require more specialist support, 5 have been placed on roll in fulltime provision during this financial year. The actual costs are outlined below, all of them are now in year 11 so the amount includes costs up to the end of March 2019.

Year Group	Provision	Cost
Year 11	Living in Somerset Fulltime Alternative Provision	£22,105.20
Year 11	Living in Wiltshire. Fulltime place at Catch22	£17,136
Year 11	Living in Bristol. Fulltime Alternative Provision.	£19,500
Year 11	Living in South Wiltshire Fulltime placement at Wessex College Education	£16,800
Year 11	Living in Hertfordshire. Fulltime Alternative Provision.	£24,700
Total		£100,241.20

Most of the allocated DSG funding has been used for these students, their needs are complex so expenditure is unavoidable. If there are any other cases that fall into this category during the next 3 months there is only £2,000 left, any further costs would need to be funded from Pupil Premium Grant.

Many young people who fall into this category are managed in school until later in KS4, each year there tends to be a similar number who require this kind of support.

There has been no increase in the general Pupil Premium Grant from the DfE so the Virtual School will not have the financial capacity to fund such placements in the next financial year.

I would like to request the same amount of £102,800 for the financial year 2019/20.



Chris Whitfield, Virtual School Head.