

Schools Forum SEN Working Group – Joint Meeting with the High Needs Pupils Formula Review Group

Minutes – 11th June 2012

Present: Liz Williams, Phil Cooch, John Hawkins, Carol Grant, Michael Keeling, Phil Cook, Mandy Cole, Jan Ball, Hannah Knight, Mike Piggott, Sarah O'Donnell, Mark Brotherton, Karina Kulawik

Apologies: Bruce Douglas, Phil Beaumont

		Action
1	<p>School Funding Reform – progress on formula review</p> <p>This was the only item on the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p>PC outlined the work that had been carried out to date to convert the current budgets for Special Schools, Resource Bases and ELP in to the new “place plus” methodology. By using existing band values as a guide a new “top-up” value had been calculated for each band in each type of provision, including separate day and residential top-ups in Special Schools.</p> <p>The impact on the budget for each setting was then modelled using the numbers of places filled at January 2012 and compared with the current year’s budget for each type of provision.</p> <p>3 main issues arose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of empty places – only the £10,000 base value would be received for each unfilled place and therefore funding would be lost for empty places. 2. Impact of pupil movement through the year – it was agreed that the model only showed the impact as at a single point in time. Under the new model funding will follow the pupil in “real time”. The group felt it would be important to look at actual in year pupil movement for a number of establishments in the previous year and model the impact on funding if a place plus funding methodology had been used. 3. Specialism funding – the specialism funding currently received by 3 special schools had been allocated across all 6 schools in the model. It was agreed to seek clarification as to whether this funding could be excluded from the model and paid to the schools separately. <p>The application of the minimum funding guarantee for high needs provision was discussed. The MFG would only apply for the first year.</p> <p>It was agreed that clarification needed to be sought from DfE on a number of questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How Special Schools and Resource Bases should plan their budgets under the new model; 	<p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>EW/PC/KK</p>

	2. How the LA could strategically plan places under the new model	
5	Date & Time of Next Meeting No further date was set although it was agreed that the High Needs Pupils Formula Review Group may need to meet again depending on the progress with the modelling work and the response of the DfE to the questions that were to be submitted. <i>(note – the review group met again on 28th June to discuss the issues of the MFG and in year pupil movement)</i>	

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