

**Report from the Schools Forum SEN Working Group**

**Purpose of report**

1. To report on the joint meeting of the SEN Working Group and High Needs Formula Review Group, held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

**Main considerations for School Forum**

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. The SEN Group made the following recommendations:

**4. *Review of the Medical Needs Service***

The Group requested that officers review how the contribution of 80% of the AWPU towards the cost of provision for pupils with medical needs would be implemented for pupils accessing the service from special schools or other high needs provision as from April there will be no per pupil rate of funding for high needs provision.

Following discussions since the meeting it is proposed that if a pupil from a special school, resource base or ELP is accessing the medical needs service then the contribution required from the school should be the equivalent of 80% of the per pupil rate allocated to mainstream schools for the age of the pupil.

**5. *School Funding Reform – High Needs Pupils***

Following discussion on proposed planned places and top up rates for high needs provision the group made the following recommendations to be considered as part of the overall budget setting report:

1. a summary of the top up rates and the cost would be presented to Schools Forum as part of the budget setting papers.
2. An option to increase the value of top up rates in complex needs centres to reflect the decrease in place numbers should be presented to Schools Forum – this would take the form of a % increase in the short term until place values can be re-worked for future years.
3. A new A+ band be recommended for ASD resource bases to reflect the increasing complexity of needs being met within these centres
4. An option of a 2% turbulence rate to be included in the special school top-up rate be modelled for Schools Forum depending on affordability.

**6. *Proposals***

That Schools Forum

- a) Agree the basis for the contribution of 80% of the per pupil rate to the Medical Needs Service for pupils in high needs provision (paragraph 4)
- b) Note the recommendations of the group in respect of planned places and top up values for high needs provision, to be considered as part of the overall consideration of the 13-14 budget.

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