

Schools Forum SEN Working Group

25th February 2014, 1.30pm, Pratchett Meeting Room, County Hall

Minutes

Present: Liz Williams, Grant Davis, Susan Tanner, John Hawkins, Debbie Bennett, Tracey Cornelius, Ingrid Sidmouth, Jon Hamp

Apologies: Carol Grant, Becky O'Brien, Phil Beaumont

1	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting of 10th January were reviewed. The minutes had been considered by Schools Forum and the recommendations of the working group taken in to account.</p>	
2	<p>Feedback from Schools Forum – proposal for support for pupils with additional needs moving in to Reception</p> <p>EW fed back a proposal from Schools Forum that additional funding be utilised to support pupils with high needs making the transition in to primary school. Any funding would need to come from previous year's underspends and would therefore be one off. The Group had been asked by Schools Forum to develop options for further consideration.</p> <p>It was agreed that a small sub-Group would be set up to develop proposals. The group would need to include LA officers (Susan Tanner, Angela Everett and Liz Williams) and a number of primary school head teachers. It was further agreed that this should be discussed by the Finance and SEN groups at Primary Head's Forum (PHF) on 20th March.</p>	EW/ST
3	<p>Special Schools – review of residential places</p> <p>EW and ST presented a report updating the group on the work being carried out to review residential places across special schools. It was agreed that the report needed to be considered as confidential.</p> <p>As reported to the previous meeting work was now taking place with schools on an individual basis as issues were different in each case.</p> <p>Principles behind the review included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring the right amount of residential provision to meet the needs of high needs pupils within Wiltshire• Ensuring that any agreed model could be supported within the overall funding framework, including the principle of equity of funding between academies and maintained schools. <p>It was reported that proposals to cease residential provision at Downlands school from April 2014 had been agreed. Discussions were being held with Rowdeford and Springfields schools to consider options for delivery of residential provision and these were at an early stage.</p>	
4	<p>Special Schools – top up rates 2014-15</p> <p>EW confirmed that top up rates had not yet been agreed for special schools in 2014-15. The increase in top up rates implemented in 2013-14 had cost an additional £0.703m in year and the special school top up budget was</p>	

	<p>projected to overspend by £0.498m as a result.</p> <p>EW recommended that the higher rates be continued in to 2014-15 and that funding would be in part from the reduction in residential top up rates to be paid in 2014-15 at Downlands school and the remainder to be transferred from the Independent Special School budget.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend to Schools Forum that the top up rates for 2014-15 be set at the same level as the revised rate for 2013-14.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="419 474 987 719"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Day</th> <th>Residential</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Band 1+</td> <td>£18,054</td> <td>£54,058</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 1</td> <td>£12,361</td> <td>£40,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 2</td> <td>£9,514</td> <td>£33,122</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 3</td> <td>£6,668</td> <td>£25,993</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 4</td> <td>£2,814</td> <td>£16,342</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band 5</td> <td>£485</td> <td>£10,060</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Day	Residential	Band 1+	£18,054	£54,058	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	
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5	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no AOB at this meeting</p>																						
6	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 5th June 2014, 1.30pm, County Hall</p>																						

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