

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 16th October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision

SUBJECT: Pupil Referral Unit Funding

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the changes to the funding of pupil referral alternative provision (AP) from April 2015.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the:

- 2.1 Local Authority’s AP Top Up Funding levels are noted;**
- 2.2 Delegated AP early intervention funding from the high needs budget of £25,000 per school, across 8 high schools, is approved.**
- 2.3 AP Engagement Service offer is noted.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Further to the previous reports on funding for Pupil Referral Units on 19th March 2013, 21st January 2014 and 17th March 2014 a comprehensive strategic review of AP is now completed. The key recommendations now being implemented are:

- One AP service with teams responsible for its delivery;
- A menu of provision that includes full and part time programmes, outreach and CPD with clear entry routes and criteria and agreed exit outcomes and delivered by specialist staff;
- Appropriate funding streams to support the revised model identified; and
- A robust quality assurance framework for all AP.

LA Commissioned Provision

The Bridge School is a 60 place KS3 & KS4 PRU. It currently receives a delegated budget of £8,000 per pupil place. Each pupil also receives a top up rate from the high needs budget. Top up rates differ and are dependent on the level of individual pupil need. National Consultation by the DfE on revised PRU funding proposes an increase to £10,000 per pupil place from September 2015.

The LA will commission all Day 6 permanent exclusion provision and up to 10 KS3 & KS4 In Year Fair Access Panel (IYFAP) places (within the existing protocol) from The Bridge School.

Currently when a school permanently excludes a pupil they are fined £9000. From April 2015 this will cease. The school will still be required to pay back the relevant AWPU following exclusion. Schools will also receive appropriate support from the LA commissioned provision (detailed below) at The Bridge School to reintegrate an excluded pupil. This proposal was presented and agreed at the 11-19 Partnership in June 2014.

The following LA AP Top Up Funding Model (for permanently excluded and IYFAP pupils) is proposed from April 2015

Key Stage 3 AP The Bridge School			
Level	Pupil need	Curriculum Offer	£ per annum
L1	Able to access groups, progress slightly below or meeting expectations, able to sustain transition to new school placement.	KS3 National Curriculum	£13,300
L2	Require small group approaches, progress not meeting expectations, significant Personal & Social (P&S) issues impacting on education, school absence.	KS3 National Curriculum + Personal & Social Development (PSD)	£17,480
L3	Require small group approaches with some 1:1 support to address significant barriers, P&S issues and inappropriate behaviours impacting on attendance and ability to engage.	KS3 National Curriculum + reintegration	£21,660
L4	Requires 1:1 support to address significant negative attitudes and a deficit in behaviour for learning. Long periods of absence. School phobic.	KS3 Bespoke 1:1 Support	On referral to respond to need.

Key Stage 4 AP The Bridge School			
Level	Pupil need	Curriculum Offer	£ per annum
L1	Year 11/late referrals unable to complete GCSEs. Able to access groups in core and options to an agreed transition pathway (post 16). Progress below expectations.	Alternative Provision (AP) + English, maths, science, ICT	£10,450
L2	Able to access groups in core GCSE and options to an agreed transition pathway (school/post 16). Progress meets/exceeds expectations.	Alternative Provision (AP) + GCSE - English, maths, science, ICT	£15,200
L3	Able to access groups in core and options to an agreed transition pathway (school/post 16). Progress meets/exceeds expectations. Significant P&S issues impacting on education, school absence.	Alternative Provision (AP) + GCSE - English, maths, science, ICT and PSD	£19,000
L4	Requires small groups with some 1:1 support to address significant barriers, P&S issues and inappropriate behaviours impacting on attendance and ability to engage.	Alternative Provision (AP) + GCSE - English, maths, science, ICT + reintegration	£22,800
L5	Requires 1:1 support to address significant negative attitudes and a deficit in behaviour for learning. Long periods of absence. School phobic.	Bespoke 1:1 Support	On referral to respond to need.

3.2 School Commissioned Provision

A temporary arrangement was agreed by the EFA in 2013/14 for early intervention Engagement Service provided by the PRU for pupils who

remained on roll of a school. This provision was funded by the LA through its High Needs Budget and involved no cost to the school.

- 3.5 The development of a revised Engagement Service through The Bridge School to offer a wide range of early intervention and alternative provision programmes is underway. The service will offer; a menu of provision that fulfils a robust Quality Assurance Framework (aligned with the OFSTED Inspection Framework), attendance reporting, a range of qualifications up to GCSE and to reflect the complex needs and vulnerabilities of the cohort the programmes will also offer Key Worker support and bespoke personal and social interventions. These will be available to schools through a SLA. The cost of this provision is as follows;

Key Stage 3 & Key Stage 4 Engagement Service		
Curriculum Offer	£ per half day session	£ per annum (full time)
Alternative Provision (AP) including English, maths, ICT, sport, w/exp, vocational options.	£32.50	£12,350

- 3.6 £200,000 will be delegated to schools from April 2015 to meet their commissioning needs. For the 8 high schools this equates to £25,000 per school. Schools will be encouraged to purchase AP through the SLA from The Bridge School in order to support the further development and delivery of Alternative Provision Service in Halton and ensure the sustainability of the provision.

4.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014	DFE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision
LA Statutory Duties – Commissioning Alternative Provision 2014	DfE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision
Dedicated Schools Grant 2015-2016. Final Arrangements & DfE Funding Intentions. August 2014.	DfE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision