

TITLE OF REPORT: Funding for Electively Home Educated (EHE) Pupils

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to School Forum a proposal under the principle of 'funding following the pupil'.

Background–Electively Home Educated Pupils

2. Parents have the right to home educate their children and increasingly more and more parents are choosing to take advantage of this right. Over the past 3 years we have seen a steady rise in home educated children from 63 in 2014/15 to 119 in 2016/17
3. Parents need to provide an education that is deemed to be “efficient”, “full time”, “suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of the child”, and “suitable to any special educational needs”. In order to monitor progress the Local Authority requests information from parents on an annual basis outlining the education which is being provided.
4. On those occasions when the education is found not to be “efficient”, “full time”, “suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of the child”, and “suitable to any special educational needs” staff work to engage with the parent in order to place the child or young person back into suitable mainstream provision through the fair access process (primary and secondary).
5. The proposal is that when a child is removed to be home educated, where the pupil is an existing Gateshead pupil, the school's budget share that the pupil is moving from is reduced by the amount $A \times (B/52)$ where -

A to be the amount determined by the authority that would be attributable to a pupil of the same age and personal circumstances as the pupil in question, and B is either-

- (i) the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date; or
- (ii) where the permanent move takes effect on or after 1st April in a school year
 - (a) at the end of which pupils of the same age, or age group, as the pupil in question normally leave that school before being admitted to another school with a different pupil age range,
 - (b) the number of complete weeks remaining in that school year calculated from the relevant date.

The amount that the authority would determine will include pupil premium funding, and any other applicable additional grant(s).

6. These funds would be held by the Education Support Service and would be used either:

- To pay for alternative provision for other EHE pupils returning to mainstream school in Y11 and/or
- To be given to a schools if/when the pupil returned to mainstream as a one off payment to support their transition back into a mainstream school, according to the agreed formula

RISKS

7. Pupils remain in provision which is inappropriate to meet their needs

Proposal

8. When a pupil leaves a school to be home educated the funding is removed from the school, which can then be used at a later date to support that pupil or other EHE pupils back into education

9. In Gateshead funding recouped and redistributed for permanent exclusions and managed moves are calculated on an academic year, and it is proposed that this process would be on the same basis.

Recommendations

10. That School Forum agrees:
- the transfer of funds out of a school once a pupil leaves to be home educated
 - The process of recoupment and redistribution be on the same basis as permanent exclusions and managed moves

For the following reason(s):

To ensure that all children and young people in Gateshead receive an education that is suitable and appropriate to their needs and abilities.

To enable schools to receive the support to accurately identify the needs of children and young people and implement support strategies as/when appropriate.

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