

8 February 2018

**TITLE OF REPORT: Commissioning Arrangements for High Needs Places
2017/18**

Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forum the proposed commissioning arrangements for High Needs Places for 2018/19.

Background

2. The Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations (England) 2018 require Schools Forum to be consulted on the commissioning arrangements for high needs places. This includes all places for special education needs (SEN) and alternative provision places commissioned by the local authority (LA), and the arrangements for paying top-up funding.

Commissioning Process for 2018/19

3. As in 2017/18, all special schools and the Pupil Referral Unit Pru will receive place funding of £10,000 per commissioned place.
4. For 2018/19 the funding arrangements for Additionally Resourced Mainstream Schools (ARMS) has changed.
5. Previously commissioned places would all have been funded at £10,000 per place, however for 2018/19 children current or main registered with the ARMS will be funded using Gateshead's mainstream funding formula with an additional commissioned place funding of £6,000 per occupied place. Vacant commissioned places will be funded at £10,000 per place (as per October 2017 census). E.g.
6. If a school has 10 commissioned ARMS places, and 8 pupils are either current or main registered with the school the school will receive funding for 8 pupils through the mainstream funding formula plus $8 * £6,000$. For the 2 vacant places the school will receive £10,000 per place.

Worked example

2017/18 funding arrangements $10 \text{ places} * £10,000 = £100,000$

2018/19 funding arrangements

8 places @ gateshead formula (average post minimum funding guarantee (MFG)) funding for primary ARMS £4,997.54 = £39,980
 Occupied place funding 8 * £6,000 = £48,000
 Plus vacant place funding 2 * £10,000 = £20,000

Total ARMS funding = £107,890

7. In addition to this and according to national funding policy, the LA will pay a locally agreed top-up to settings if and where they are necessary. The top-ups may vary between settings depending on the complexity of pupils' needs in the particular establishment. This top-up will only be paid for pupils on roll and will move in real time with the pupils.
8. The LA gathers data and intelligence to support the annual commissioning process by:
 - Looking at retrospective data and trends
 - Reviewing special school, settings current pupils, and pupils that will leave at the end of the academic year
 - Discussion with school headteachers
 - Estimating needs for new special placements by analysing information from:
 - the early years' service
 - annual moderation process
 - other intelligence from the casework officer team and other services

Commissioned Places

9. The below table shows the proposed commissioned places for 2018/19 within the LA

Commissioned Places 2018/19				
Additionally Resources Mainstream Schools				
	KS1	KS2	KS3 & 4	Notes
Bede	8			
Swallwell	10			
Brandling	16			
Rowlands Gill	6			
Whickham Comprehensive			13	+3 Post 16
Thorpe Academy			15	+ ? Post 16
Special Schools	Pre 16	Post 16		
Dryden	35	11		
Eslington	57			
Furrowfield	71			
Gibside	135			

Hill Top	88	17		
The Cedars	120	13		
Alternative Provision	Pre 16	Post 16		
River Tyne Academy	103			

Proposal

10. That Schools Forum notes the contents of the report and proposed commissioning of the above places.

Recommendations

11. Schools Forum notes the report.

For the following reasons: -

- To adhere to the requirements of the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations (England) 2018

CONTACT: Carole Smith Ext. 2747