

17th March 2016

Item 9

TITLE OF REPORT: High Needs Commissioned Places

Purpose of the Report

To bring to Schools Forum the proposed commissioning arrangements for High Needs Places for 2016/17.

Background

The Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations (England) 2014 amended the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 with the requirement that high needs commissioning arrangements must be discussed at Schools Forum. This requirement is still in place for the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations (England) 2015. This includes all places for special education needs (SEN) and alternative provision places commissioned by the local authority, and the arrangements for paying top-up funding.

This report brings to Forum the current position on commissioned places, although not all places are yet agreed, and could be subject to change.

Commissioning Process for 2016/17

As in 2015/16, all special schools, Pru and Additionally Resourced Mainstream support bases will receive place funding of £10,000 per commissioned place. In addition to this and according to national funding policy, the LA will pay a locally agreed 'top-up' to special schools if and where necessary, which will vary between provisions 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.

The LA gathers data and intelligence to support the annual commissioning process by:

- Looking at retrospective data and trends
- Reviewing special school and provision current numbers and numbers 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

The below table shows the proposed commissioned places for 2016/17

Commissioned Places 2016/17				
Additionally Resources Mainstream Support Bases				
	KS1	KS2	KS3 & 4	Notes
Bede	8			
High Spen	10			
Swallowwell	11			
Bill Quay		6		
Brandling	16			
Rowlands Gill	8			
Whickham Comprehensive			13	+3 Post 16
Thorpe Academy			23	+ 2 Post 16
Eslington		8		
Special Schools	Pre 16	Post 16		
Dryden	35	16		+ 4 Post 18
Eslington	42 + 2			
Furrowfield	71			
Gibside	112			
Hill Top	88	17		+ 1 Post 18
The Cedars	105	13		
Alternative Provision	Pre 16	Post 16		
Pru	48			
Home to Hospital	55			

Proposal

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

Recommendations

Schools Forum notes the report.

For the following reasons:-

- To adhere to the requirements of the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations (England) 2015
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