

TITLE OF REPORT: Funding for Permanently Excluded Pupils

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to Schools Forum a proposal to move funding between the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) into the High Needs Block of the DSG to assist in meeting the cost of the increasing number of secondary permanent exclusions.

Background

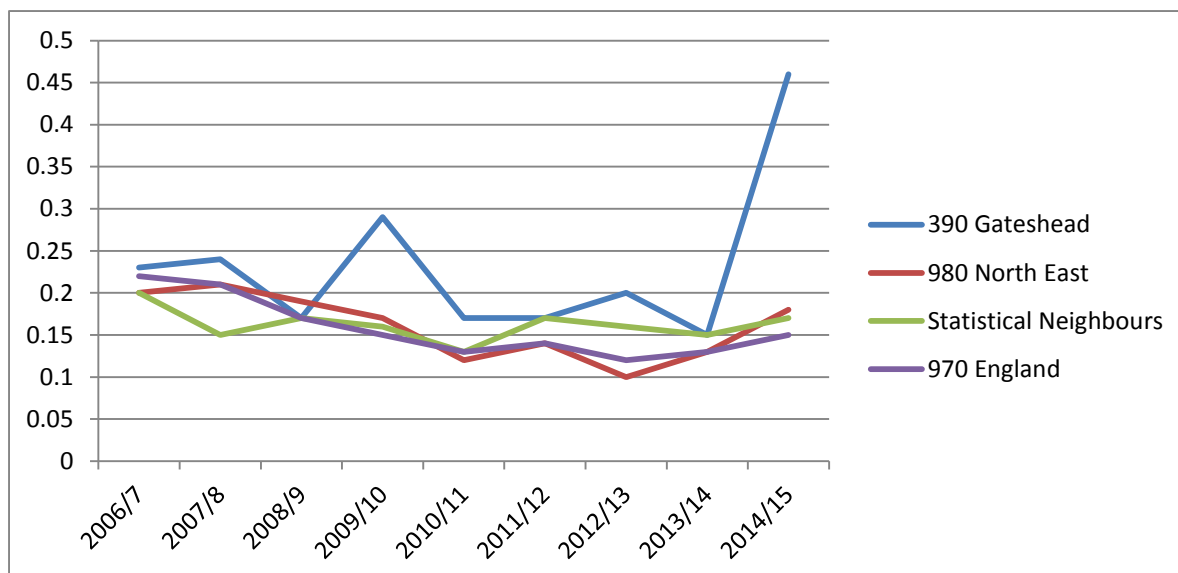
2. Currently when a pupil is permanently excluded the funding is clawed back from the excluding school/academy. The Department for Education (DfE) have made it clear that it expects maintained schools and academies to be treated equitably with regards to funding. This includes funding following permanently excluded pupils.
3. The document *Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England* (January 2015), states that the funding for a permanently excluded pupil must follow the pupil. Article 182 states that local authorities will be responsible for adjusting the budget shares of maintained schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) if a pupil is permanently excluded.
4. Article 183 further states that a local authority may ask an academy trust to enter into an arrangement for the transfer of funding for pupils who have been permanently excluded on the same basis as if the academy were a maintained school. The academy trust under their funding agreement with the DfE is obliged to comply with such a request.
5. The requirements for the transfer of funding between local authorities are set out in Section 494 of the Education Act 1996 and the Education (Amount to Follow Permanently Excluded Pupil) Regulations 1999.
6. The funding which is clawed back, of which the majority is put back into the High Needs Block, still leaves a short fall of approximately £15,000 per pupil (for a full academic year) to meet the needs of the educational costs for a permanently excluded pupil. Additional to this is the ongoing costs of educating these children until they are no longer of statutory school age as

on average only 1% of permanently excluded pupils are successfully re-integrated into a mainstream school.

7. The PRU is funded from the High Needs Block of the DSG for 48 FTE permanently excluded pupils. Previously in Gateshead the number of pupils being permanently excluded had remained between 31 (at its highest in 2004/5) and 19 (at its lowest in 2008/9) which meant that the PRU was able to manage the number of pupils within its allocated numbers.
8. Since 2014/15 however, there has been a dramatic increase in permanent exclusions, with 54 secondary permanent exclusions in 2014/15 and 70 secondary permanent exclusions in 2015/16. Due to the complex issues most of these pupils present, following a period of assessment they are deemed unsuitable for reintegration back into mainstream education.

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Charles Thorp							3		3	2	3	5
Emmanuel							1		3	3	2	3
Heworth Grange	3	3	Nil	3	1	1	3	0	3	1	5	4
Hookergate	Nil	2	2	Nil	1	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Joseph Swan	3	4	4	4	2	4	1	4	3	2	5	12
Kingsmeadow	2	Nil	Nil	1	5	1	3	7	4	4	2	7
Lord Lawson	1	5	6	3	1	3	1	1	1	2	7	11
Ryton	Nil	1	2	1	1	2	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
St Edmund Campion/Cardinal Hume	6	8	6	2	1	4	2	Nil	2	2	3	8
St Thomas More	3	1	1	1	2	5	Nil	2	3	2	9	2
Thomas Hepburn	10	3	6	11	5	6	6	3	3	3	6	11
Whickham	3	2	1	1	Nil	2	6	2	1	2	12	7
Furrowfield	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
PRU	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	1		
Total	31	30	28	27	19	29	26	24	28	24	54	70

9. In relation to the school population, the rise in permanent exclusions in Gateshead is at a considerably increased rate in comparison to other regions in the northeast, our statistical neighbours and compared to national figures.



10. Under the current Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations local authorities with the approval of Schools Form can move funding between the blocks of the DSG to ease cost pressures and meet the needs of the pupil population.

Proposal

11. The proposal is that following the calculation of the mainstream schools individual schools budgets, and before the allocation of any additional resource to any funding factor, the residual funding of estimated at approximately £150,000 is transferred to the High Needs Block of the DSG to support the increasing number of secondary permanent exclusions.

Recommendations

12. School Forum approves the movement of any unallocated Schools Block DSG funding to the High Needs Block of the DSG to support the higher costs of providing education to permanently excluded pupils.

For the following reason(s):

13. To ensure that the local authority is able to meet the increasing demands of providing education for secondary permanently excluded pupils.

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