

## Schools Forum

9 December 2014

### A. Alternative Provision (AP) and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)

#### Background

1. The number of current places commissioned are:

Provider	Secondary	Primary	Total
Phoenix/Park	60	8	68
YPC	40	0	40
AP	50	10	60
Western Resource	0	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>180</b>

2. Phoenix Park and YPC have both converted to academy status with Wellspring Trust with effect from 1 December 2014. These are now known as Phoenix Park Academy and Sevenhills Academy. The Trust's area of expertise is in making provision for children and young people in PRU's, AP and SEBD Special Schools.
3. The actual volume of pupils placed in Secondary provision last academic year shows that
  - The average number of places required each week was 159
  - The maximum number of places was 186
  - The minimum number of places was 105
4. The Primary sector did not experience the average number of places being greater than places commissioned.
5. The majority of current AP is with unregistered providers. The quality of provision, whilst improving, remains an area requiring continuing development.
6. A young person's entitlement to access a full curriculum remains a challenge to deliver for AP within the current arrangements.

#### The Behaviour Task Group

7. During the last academic year the behaviour task group looked at a preferred approach to addressing the issues identified at points 5 and 6 above.
8. The preferred option was to build a model around YPC where all young people would be registered at this provision, receive a core curriculum, with access to appropriate alternative provisions and an enhanced staff team to include specialist workers.

## Options

9. Status quo
  - Alternative Provision would remain outside the Ofsted inspection framework.
  - The young person's entitlement to access a full curriculum would remain a challenge.
  - The LA cannot establish new registered provision.
  - Any new provision to be established by academies or free school route.
10. Increase the number of places to be commissioned from the Wellspring Trust
  - All children will attend registered PRU provision. In managing the individual pupil needs, the Trust may continue to use a range of alternative providers.
  - Pupils would access their full curriculum entitlement.
  - Provision would be subject to Ofsted inspection.

## Recommendations of the SEN Funding Working Group

11. To formally approach Wellspring Trust to increase the number of commissioned places at Phoenix Park Academy and Sevenhills Academy.
12. To establish a funding framework to commission places within the current funding arrangements for the PRUs within the affordability model.

## B. Commissioned Places

1. It is proposed to continue to commission the 30 places for Primary however this needs to be kept under continual review
2. Secondary schools are currently allocated 150 places (see table above)
3. As previously stated the actual volume of pupils placed in Secondary provision last academic year shows that
  - The average number of places required each week was 159
  - The maximum number of places was 186
  - The minimum number of places was 105
4. Options for AP element
  - To continue to commission 50 Secondary and 10 Primary
  - To increase to 60 places for Secondary and continue 10 places for Primary
  - To increase to 65 places for secondary and continue 10 places for Primary
  - To increase to 70 places for secondary and continue 10 places for Primary

## Recommendation of the SEN Funding Working Group

5. That we increase the places to 60 for secondary and retain 10 primary places. This will be within the affordability model.

## **C. Behaviour Support Income**

### **Background**

1. The majority of pupils in PRUs are dual registered, these are included in the pupil count and the schools receive the appropriate AWPU and any allocation associated with the individual pupil e.g. pupil premium.
2. Whilst the pupil is attending the PRU/AP, any budget held by the school is subject to claw back, this is currently
  - Transferred to the new school in the case of a managed move
  - The pupil premium element is transferred to the PRUs
3. Secondary Heads agreed that £97k of the income collected would fund the BACs Service, rather than charging individual schools.
4. Any costs incurred above the 150 places in the model would be collected from schools who had taken up more places than allocated through the model (based on pupil premium). This would be based on a proportionality model. (NB – no charges have been made in this regard)
5. That all surplus funds would be placed into the SEN contingency to fund any shortfalls or to be redistributed in the following year through the schools formula.
6. The net income in 13/14 was in the region of £200k
7. The amount of contingency held at the centre needs to be reviewed in light of the changing rules.

### **Options**

8. To create a new income target
  - Offset against pressure in HNB
  - Delegate additional £200k per annum to schools and any shortfall to be top-sliced from the school block, or any surplus redistributed through the school formulae, in the following year

### **Recommendation of the SEN Working Group**

9. To review the overall position on HNB before making a decision