**Report for Schools Forum**

**9th December 2015**

Secondary BAC : Use of claw-back funding

1. Background to Report:
   1. As part of the Behaviour and Attendance Collaborative process (BAC) pupils are placed

in alternative provision via referral to a weekly BAC panel meeting. Where a pupil is accepted, there follows a ‘clawback’ of monies from the referring Academy.

* 1. The ‘clawback’ is 38/52 of AWPU, with the remaining monies staying with the school in recognition of the obligations the school continues to have for dual registered pupils (e.g. attendance at reviews and monitoring progress). Where a pupil is placed in Alternative provision following a permanent exclusion the total AWPU is clawed back in line with financial regulations.
  2. In addition, when the 150 available places have been used the agreed charging policy comes into place.
  3. The monies accrued through these processes are held in the SEN Contingency. There is an agreement in place, with Schools Forum and the Secondary Academy Principals, that £95,300 of this accrued money is used as a contribution to the funding of the Behaviour Support Service (BSS). The remaining monies are reported to Schools Forum. In the last financial year the total income, after taking account of the costs as detailed above, was £325,346.
  4. The Secondary Academy Principals have a proposal which they would want to be funded from this money.

1. Year 11 pupils/Registration:

2.1 The principle on which the BAC has operated since its establishment is one in which pupils are dual registered and this, in part, recognises the aspiration that pupils referred to alternative provision should have the opportunity to return to mainstream education where this is a possibility.

* 1. It is recognised by both Wellspring Academy Trust which now manages the two Pupil Referral Units and the Alternative providers that, in respect of pupils now in Y11, a return to mainstream is highly unlikely. In these cases dual registration may no longer be the right option.

2.3 Wellspring Academies Trust has agreed to take all Y11 students who are currently dually registered with local academies onto the single roll of the school (either Sevenhills or Phoenix Park Academy) with effect from 1st January 2016.

This applies to all Y11 students currently at Sevenhills or Phoenix Park Academy or placed with alternative providers. There are currently 70 Y11 pupils with Wellspring and this proposal would mean that they would all become single registered This would lead to 52% of pupils on roll with Wellspring being single registered compared to a current single registration of 30%. All future Y11 placements for the remainder of this academic year will be on a single registration basis. This position will be reviewed during the summer term.

The Wellspring Trust recognises that this move:

* Is supportive of local Academies and is in the spirit of closer partnership working between the Academies and Wellspring provision in NE Lincs;
* Removes uncertainty for students and parents regarding the remainder of their school career;
* Can provide closer monitoring and oversight of the students, leading to better outcomes.

2.4 Taking all Y11 students as solely registered does however incur risks for Wellspring, particularly relating to:

* End of KS4 outcomes/qualifications;
* Additional SEND responsibility;
* Attendance;
* NEET/Careers advice and guidance

2.5 In order to off-set this risk the Secondary Academy Principals propose that Wellspring receives funding from the SEN Contingency to support the following additional staffing requirements:

* Attendance officer (Grade 5 £24,437 inclusive of on-costs);
* 0.2 SENCO (£6,973);
* Post-16 placement officer (Grade 5) (Grade 5 5 £24,437 inclusive of on costs)
* A total of £55,847 in a full year. The cost during the current financial year is £13,961

2.6 Wellspring Academy Trust needs to have the ability to recruit to these posts on a substantive basis in order to attract candidates of the required calibre, however, there is a national review of high needs funding due shortly and the LA will be reviewing its arrangements for support for Post 16 destinations from the summer term 2016. It is, therefore, proposed that agreement for this funding will remain in place until 31st March 2017. This will be subject to a review prior to this date which will take account of the pending local and national changes.

1. Recommendation:

3.1 All Secondary Academy Principals support the request to Schools Forum for funding for specific roles as detailed in 2.5 above to be paid to the Wellspring Trust from the SEN contingency. The funding to commence 1st January 2016 and to be in place, in the first instance, until 31st March 2017 pending review both of the service and any changes there may be in the move to a national funding formula recently announced by central government.

Denise Faulconbridge

25 November 2015