



Walsall Council

Walsall Children's Services

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 26th March 2013

Subject: High Needs – commissioned places & top-up rates for Additionally Resourced Provision/Units and Alternative Provision – PRU's

Contact: Dawn Morris (morrisd@walsall.gov.uk)

Purpose of the report: This report details the number and type of commissioned places and proposed top-up rates for Additional Resources Provision/Units in mainstream schools, academies and special schools in 2013-2014.

Progress of arrangements for delegated budgets for Alternative Provision - PRUs

Recommendation: To note the number and type of commissioned high needs places by the local authority.

To endorse the proposed top-up rates for Additionally Resourced Provision/Units in mainstream schools, academies and special schools.

To note the review of the funding basis of all high needs place provision during 2013-14.

To note progress toward delegated budgets for Alternative Provision – PRUs.

To note the circumstances under which the local authority, schools and academies, as commissioners, will make payments of top-up funding for provision made at Phoenix and PRUs

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Additionally Resourced Provision/Units and Alternative Provision under New Funding Reforms 2013-2014

1. Background

The March 2012 School funding reform announcement set out the high needs funding model which will be applicable to all types of high needs provision and also included a requirement to provide Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) with delegated budgets from April 2013.

The “place plus approach”, detailed at the Forum meeting of 12th March 2013, will apply to all high needs provision including Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP), Alternative Provision (AP), and Pupil Referral Units (PRU).

Therefore funding will comprise 3 elements to provide place funding based on a commissioned number of places and top-up funding paid in real time for the actual number of pupils in the provision.

2. Additionally Resourced Provision/Units 2012-2013

Following a review of SEN provision in 2004, Additionally Resourced Provision was established in a number of schools and continues to feature in the Walsall school funding formula in 2012-2013, with funding delegated to individual schools based on an agreed number of places.

The value of the funding per place was based on a block of “a typical provision” considered appropriate for the type of provision on offer. The funding block was developed by the SEN team and formed part of the authority’s SEN Monitoring Policy, copies of which were made available to all schools.

There are currently four types of ARP – communication (MLD/SPLD/speech & language, outreach); autism, physical & medical and sensory.

The table below details the schools where provision is currently being made, the type and the number of places:

School:	ARP type:	No. of funded places	Value per place
Bentley West	Sensory	10	17,347
Busill Jones	MLD/SPLD/Speech & Language, Communication	7	11,217
	Autism	8	20,587
Rushall	MLD/SPLD/Speech & Language, Communication	7	11,217
	Autism	8	20,587
Cooper & Jordan	Communication – Outreach	5	11,217

Walsall Wood	Communication – Outreach	5	11,217
Lindens	Physical & medical	10	12,341
	Outreach	10	12,341
Pool Hayes Secondary	MLD/SPLD/Speech & Language, Communication	5	10,839
	Autism	5	20,209
St Francis of Assisi RC	Communication - Dyslexia	13	10,839
Shire Oak Academy	MLD/SPD/Speech & Language, Communication	9	10,839
Streetly Academy	Physical & medical	5	11,963
King Charles	Communication – Nurture Gr	10	12,334

The total funding delegated in school budget shares for ARP in 2012-13 is £1,595,750.

3. ARP – Summary of Impact of New Funding Reforms

ARP provision must be funded from the local authority's high need block of DSG and will no longer be a funding factor within a school's delegated budget share. As previously stated funding follows the place plus approach with the authority commissioning the number of places it wishes to fund from the high needs block for the financial year.

Each school offering ARP will have their funding for the provision confirmed at the beginning of the year at £10,000 per place. Each ARP will then receive top-up funding for the actual number of pupils in the provision. The top-up will be calculated on a 52 week basis.

As the pupils in the provision are registered at the individual schools, the funding per place quoted in the table above has an abatement applied to it in recognition of the AWPU funding pupils in the school attract.

New regulations require that the pupils taking up provision are no longer included in the funded pupil number for the schools making provision and therefore the abatement will no longer be applied to the place value.

In addition provision for outreach, currently provided at three primary schools, although still to be funded from the LA's high needs block, can no longer to be considered as ARP and funded on a place basis.

4. Commissioned ARP/Unit provision and funding for 2013-2014

The authority will commission the same type and number of ARP places as funded in 2012, to be offered at the same school or academy but excluding the outreach provision and the 10 nurture places currently funded at King Charles. In addition it is proposed to establish a Special Unit at Phoenix Special school (formerly known as Welcome Centre), with 6 commissioned places offering provision for pupils from primary sector. Final details have yet to be agreed.

The funding of the ARP will use 2012-13 funding as the basis but with the abatement removed. Therefore listed below are the place values and top-up funding to be used in 2013-14:

ARP type:	No. commissioned places	Total Value per fte place		Element 1 Base £10k p/pl	Element 2 Top-up on actual fte provision
MLD/SPLD/speech & language/communication	41	£13,149		£10,000	£3,149
Sensory	10	£19,160		£10,000	£9,160
Autism	21	£20,025		£10,000	£10,025
Physical & Medical	15	£17,185		£10,000	£7,185

In regard to provision being made at academies the new funding arrangements do not come into place until September 2013, therefore funding at Shire Oak and Streetly Academies will be part year on current funding basis and part year under place plus approach.

It has been recognised by the SEN group that the basis of funding for ARP provision has not been subject to review since 2004 and that this should take place over the next 12 months, alongside the review of the SEN matrix/banding system for other high needs provision and in conjunction with further DfE guidance as progress towards a national SEN banding system is made.

The proposed unit at Phoenix Special school will differ slightly in so far as the place value will use the speech & language place value as starting point but the top-up value will need to be enhanced to recognise that the pupils accessing the provision are registered at other schools and will not attend the unit on a full time basis. The funding provided will need to ensure, as far as possible, that staffing costs can be met although for periods of the year there may be surplus capacity. The top-up proposed is £6,579 per place taken, which equates to a daily rate of £34.63.

It should also be noted that unlike other established ARP where the top-up funding will be 100% funded via the local authority from the high needs block of the DSG, the commissioner of a place at the unit at Phoenix will be required to pay the top-up funding, based on the actual days of provision made in the following circumstances:

- a. Permanently excluded pupils - local authority is the commissioner and meets the costs of top-up.
- b. Other, for example fixed term exclusion or at risk of exclusion - school is the commissioner and meets the cost of top-up

5. Progress on Delegated Budgets for Alternative Provision – PRU’s

All expenditure incurred in respect of the two pupil referral units – New Leaf and Shepwell Green is currently met by the local authority from centrally retained DSG funding.

The new funding reforms require PRU’s to be funded and managed in a similar way to schools from 1st April 2013 and must be in receipt of a delegated budget from this date.

The place plus approach will be used in a similar way to that used for special schools and ARP, the only difference being that the Elements 1 & 2 - place value will be funded at £8,000 per commissioned place, not £10,000. Element 3 - top-up funding based on actual pupils and will be paid by the commissioner of the place for the period of the placement.

- a. Permanently excluded pupils - local authority is the commissioner and meets the costs of top-up.
- b. Other, for example fixed term exclusion or at risk of exclusion - school is the commissioner and meets the cost of top-up

The number of places to be commissioned at each PRU has been considered however a number of difficulties have been encountered in “translating” the costs associated with the provision at the two PRU’s into a place plus model. At the time of this report top-up rates, which will vary, have yet to be determined.

Modelling work is ongoing and a further report will be brought to the next Forum meeting.

6. Recommendations

1. To note the type and number of Additionally Resourced Provision places to be commissioned by the local authority in 2013-14.
2. To endorse the proposed top-up rates for Additionally Resourced Provision/Units in mainstream schools, academies and special schools.
3. To note the review of the funding basis of all high needs place provision during 2013-14
4. To note progress toward delegated budgets for Alternative Provision – PRUs.
5. To note the circumstances under which the local authority, schools and academies, as commissioners, will make payments of top-up funding for provision made at Phoenix and PRUs

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